

GREAT PLANT PICKS

Ceanothus Field Evaluation Report 19 June 2003

The Oregon Garden, Silverton
Judges: Neil Bell, Joe Blue, Roger Gossler, Dee Grissell, Carolyn Jones, Richie Steffen


All plants were given a numerical score from 1 (worst) to five (best). Scores on this report reflect the average of 4-6 individual scores.

Ceanothus	Overall Score	Habit	Foliage	Bark/Stem Color	Flower	Fruit	Disease Resistance	Pest Resistance	Comments ¹	Image
C. 'Blue Jeans'	4.08	3.92	4.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.2	4.2	open spreading habit, 3' x 3.5'; "attractive foliage" with small dentate shiny fresh green leaves, full to the ground, very textural foliage "like tiny holly leaves"	
C. 'Cynthia Postan'	4.11	4.75	4.5	N/A	4.1	2.5	4.4	4.4	dense, wide-spreading habit with arching stems, 3' x 5'; prominent venation on long narrow leaves with crinkled (or "frayed") edges; small deep blue flowers; green fruit with reddish tinge; "would make a great groundcover for large-scale sunny areas"	

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<i>C. cuneatus</i>	4.22	4.25	4.84	4.1	2.88	N/A	4.6	4.6	open angular spreading habit with gracefully arching tips, 3' x 3'; small attractive gray green leaves; new stems rosy peach, old stems silver gray, in between they are golden brown—"very pretty"; white flowers; "excellent foliage plant"; "good highway plant, leaf and stem contrast are outstanding!"	
<i>C. delilianus</i> 'Henri Desfossé'	4.13	3.84	3.75	4.1	4.67	N/A	4.4	4.0	spreading habit with upright shoots, 2.5' x 2.5'; light-medium green deciduous foliage; deep dark reddish pink stems, rich blue flowers; "one of the nicest—adaptable, late bloom, great leaf/stem contrast, one of the hardiest (along with Marie Simon)", attractive to deer	
<i>C. 'Julia Phelps'</i>	4.22	4.1	4.5	N/A	N/A	3.5	4.5	4.5	dense spreading habit, 3' x 5'; small crinkly leaves; reddish fruit; very similar to 'Puget Blue'	

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<i>C. pallidus</i> 'Marie Simon' ²	4.01	4.09	4.0	4.0	4.34	N/A	4.2	3.42	upright spreading habit, 2.5' x 2.5'; clean medium green foliage with lush appearance; "very nice" reddish pink stems; "outstanding" large pink flowers or "large muddy pink flowers"; attractive to deer	
<i>C. 'Puget Blue'</i>	4.35	4.5	4.5	N/A	4.38	3.7	4.5	4.5	attractive dense mounding habit with arching branches, 3' x 5'; small, dark green, very textural crinkly foliage; dark blue flowers; attractive reddish fruit clusters; "very handsome plant"; AGM	
<i>C. thyrsiflorus</i> 'Skylark'	4.45	4.67	4.5	N/A	4.67	N/A	4.0	4.4	spreading dense habit with arching branches, 4' x 6'; large glossy dark green leaves with prominent veins; covered with medium to dark blue profuse flowers; slight leaf and stem spot; "very attractive"; "recommend for GPP short list"; AGM	

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C. 'Victoria'	4.37	4.5	4.59	N/A	4.34	N/A	4.0	4.4	dense full habit, 2.5' x 4.5'; fairly large glossy dark green prominently veined leaves; covered with profuse medium blue flowers; some leaf spot; "industry standard: tough, attractive plant puts on good flower show"	
C. 'Wheeler Canyon' ³	4.11								see 'Cynthia Postan'	

Notes:

¹ This planting of Ceanothus at The Oregon Garden is two years old. All plants are growing without irrigation in full sun. Evaluated cultivars represent the most attractive species at this site.

² Photo courtesy of Joe Blue, Briggs Nursery

³ Name not verified in RHS Plant Finder 2003-2004. Since 'Wheeler Canyon' appears identical to 'Cynthia Postan', these two cultivars were rated together.