***Aglaonema* ‘Golden Bay’**

R.J. Henny and J. Chen

University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Science, Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, 2725 Binion Road, Apopka, FL 32703

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The genus *Aglaonema* (family Araceae), commonly called Chinese evergreen, contains many cultivars that are important ornamental tropical foliage plants due to their tolerance of low light and low relative humidity levels under interior conditions. Historically, most new *Aglaonema* cultivars were introduced directly from the wild or were selected sports from established cultivars. Control of *Aglaonema* flowering and development of pollination techniques has led to the production of many new cultivars in the past ten years by both public and private breeders (Henny, 1983, 1985). *Aglaonema* ‘Golden Bay’ is one such hybrid developed in the foliage plant breeding program of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station at the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC)—Apopka.

Origin

Aglaonema ‘Golden Bay’ originated from the cross of two interspecific hybrids (MREC 277028 and 1501), both of which had *A. commutatum* Schott. ‘Tricolor’ as one parent (Fig. 1). The other parent of MREC 277028 was *A. nitidum* Kunth ‘Ernesto’s Favorite’. *Aglaonema* ‘Manila’ was used to generate MREC 1501. MREC 1501 has a foliar variegation pattern genotype of $V^{mn}V^u$ (Henny, 1986) displayed in leaves that ranged from 7 to 9 cm in width and 21 to 23 cm in length. *Aglaonema* hybrid MREC 277028 had leaves with a maximum width of 10 to 12 cm and length of 32 to 35 cm along with a leaf variegation pattern genotype of $V^{mn}V^{ef}$.

Description

‘Golden Bay’ has been patented (U.S. Plant Patent No. PP010140). Mature ‘Golden Bay’ leaves are lanceolate 9 to 10 cm wide and 28 to 30 cm long (Fig. 2). ‘Golden Bay’ branches to produce three to six basal shoots per single stem cutting. Leaves have a green-white (RHS 160C-D) midrib and exhibit a central grey-green (RHS 0191A-B) area that extends out from each side of the midrib to cover slightly over half of the total leaf surface (Royal Horticultural Society, 1995). Leaf margins are green (RHS 139A) and intersect the lighter gray-

color. Petiole color is white (RHS 155A). The stem color is varying shades of yellow-green (RHS 146B-C) but is generally not visible due to the clasping petioles.

Performance

Growth characteristics of *Aglaonema* ‘Golden Bay’ were determined using 30 liners, 20 weeks from tissue culture and well rooted in 25-mm cell trays. Liners were potted into 1.6-L plastic pots containing a substrate of VerGro Container Mix A (Verlite Co., Tampa, Fla.). Plants were grown in a shaded greenhouse with a maximum irradiance of $125 \mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$, natural photoperiod and a temperature range of 15 to 34 °C. Ten plants were grown from Nov. to Oct. 1998 at each of three fertilizer levels (equivalent to 52, 104, and 156 g/N·m²/year) obtained from Osmocote (Sierra Chemical Co., Milpitas, Calif.) 19N–2.6P–10K

Fig. 1. Pedigree of *Aglaonema* ‘Golden Bay’.

Fig. 2. A 7-month-old plant of *Aglaonema* ‘Golden Bay’ in a 1.6-L pot.

Table 1. Size of *Aglaonema* ‘Golden Bay’ grown at three nutritional levels for 10 months (November to October).

Fertilizer (N) per year (g·m ⁻²)	Canopy height	Canopy width	Pulled-up height	Leaf length	Leaf width	No. basal shoots	Visual quality ^z
52	37.7	46.0	45.2	27.9	8.8	4.8	4.7
104	34.5	42.6	42.2	26.2	8.8	4.3	4.2
156	33.3	39.0	40.9	24.4	8.6	3.7	4.0
Significance	L*	L*	NS	L*	NS	NS	NS

^zVisual quality where 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = saleable, 4 = good and 5 = excellent.

NS, *Nonsignificant and linear (L) significance at $P < 1\%$ level, respectively.

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in a completely randomized design. Data recorded at termination of the study included canopy height, canopy width, height with the leaves pulled up, length and width of largest leaf, number of basal shoots, and a visual quality rating where 1 = poor; 3 = acceptable (saleable); and 5 = excellent quality. Data were analyzed using analysis of variance procedures of the SAS program (SAS Institute, Cary, N.C.). Parameters with means showing significant differences were subjected to regression analysis.

Aglaonema 'Golden Bay' reached marketable size in 10 months. Canopy height, width, and length all showed significant linear decreases as fertilizer level increased (Table 1). There was no significant difference in pulled

up height, leaf width, number of basal shoots, or visual quality, although all declined at higher fertilizer levels. Plants were well branched, averaging over three to four basal shoots per plant. Plant quality averaged from good to excellent at all nutritional levels.

Availability

Aglaonema 'Golden Bay' is intended for commercial producers growing finished plants in 1.6- or 3.9-L containers. Patent rights were assigned to the Florida Foundation Seed Producers. Stock plants have been released to several Florida tissue culture labs for propagation and distribution. Inquiries regarding participating laboratories may be obtained by

writing the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32443. Plants for research purposes may be obtained directly from R.J.H.

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