

Table 1. Effects of light intensity and fertilization rate on production, size, and postharvest life of *H. psittacorum* 'Andromeda' flowers grown outdoors in southeastern Florida.

Light intensity	Fertilization rate (g N/m <sup>2</sup> /yr)	Bract length <sup>z</sup> (cm)	Peduncle length <sup>z</sup> (cm)	Total height <sup>z</sup> (cm)	No. of flowers/m <sup>2</sup> (1981)	No. of flowers/m <sup>2</sup> (1982)	Postharvest life <sup>a</sup> (days)
63% shade	125	13.4	36.1	168.1	34.1	77.6	15.5
	400	13.7	35.6	178.5	31.4	70.9	15.2
	650	14.2	32.2	175.4	35.9	65.0	14.6
Full sun	125	12.5	39.1	159.8	96.9	118.8	14.4
	400	13.6	43.8	181.2	106.7	161.9	14.9
	650	13.1	39.8	174.2	130.5	161.9	14.4

<sup>a</sup>Measurements were made on plants from 2nd year beds (1982) which had achieved maximum density.

temperatures were maintained between 16° and 25°C. A 2nd year bed in this greenhouse produced about 175 flowers/m<sup>2</sup>/yr.

Postharvest life of cut inflorescences for both cultivars placed in deionized water averaged 14–17 days at 23°C. Insect and disease pests of these heliconias are few. Aphids

often colonize the nectar laden flowers, but these are controlled easily with common insecticides. Thrips and mites have been reported on 'Andromeda' under greenhouse conditions but have never been observed in outdoor beds in southern Florida. Nematodes can cause damage of some varieties of *H.*

*psittacorum*, but the relative susceptibilities of 'Andromeda' and 'Golden Torch' to nematodes is not known. Minor flower lesions associated with *Helminthosporium* sp. sometimes occur on 'Golden Torch' flowers, but have never been observed on 'Andromeda'. Production and postharvest culture of this crop is described elsewhere (2).

#### Availability

Information regarding the availability of 'Andromeda' and 'Golden Torch' heliconias may be obtained from the authors.

#### Literature Cited

1. Broschat, T.K. and H.M. Donselman. 1983. Heliconias: a promising new cut flower crop. HortScience 18(1):1–2.
2. Broschat, T.K. and H.M. Donselman. 1983. Production & postharvest culture of *Heliconia psittacorum* flowers in south Florida. Proc. Fla. State Hort. Soc. 96:272–273.

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## 'Prairie Lace' Crapemyrtle

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'Prairie Lace' Crapemyrtle, *Lagerstroemia indica* L., is a compact, upright, semi-dwarf shrub which may reach 1.2 to 2 m in height. Leaves are smaller and thicker than the species average and are very dark green. Inflorescences are 12 to 25 cm tall and 8 to 12 cm wide. Individual petals are medium pink bordered by pure white. 'Prairie Lace' is cold hardy to –20°C, and is very resistant to drought and powdery mildew.

#### Origin

'Prairie Lace' was selected from a population derived from about 4000 seeds collected from 16 seedling parents and treated with a 4% solution of ethylmethane sulfonate (EMS) for one hour in Feb. 1978 (1).

The treated seeds were planted in flats in the greenhouse. After the seed germinated, powdery mildew was introduced from susceptible seedlings in large containers. About 1200 seedlings showed resistance to mildew and were planted in the field on 25 Apr. for further evaluation. 'Prairie Lace' was among 60 seedlings selected for good form and flowering characteristics. 'Prairie Lace' is probably a mutant arising from the EMS

treatment. EMS frequently induces sterility, and these mutants often have thicker than normal leaves and variegated flowers, with an occasional flower that is a solid color among the predominantly variegated flowers (1). The name 'Prairie Lace' was selected to reflect both the area of origin and the lacy character of the flowers.

#### Description

'Prairie Lace' is a compact upright but semi-dwarf shrub. Leaves are smaller and thicker than the species average. New leaves emerge wine-red, gradually turning very dark green. Fall foliage color is red to red-orange. Inflorescences are 12 to 25 cm tall and 8 to 2 cm wide. Individual petals are medium pink banded by pure white on the outer margin. stems are upright and moderately stout (Fig. 1).

'Prairie Lace' begins flowering in mid-June and continues through late September. This period is much longer than seen for most seedlings and cultivars in Oklahoma. Flowering continues during droughts and periods of prolonged heat as experienced during 1980 and 1983. Seed set is light, which possibly accounts for the extended flowering. Most other seedlings and cultivars flower early in the summer, set heavy seed crops and then flower sparsely the remainder of the growing season. 'Prairie Lace' has shown consistent resistance to powdery mildew, both in the landscape and under conditions of daily overhead watering in containers. It has with-



Fig. 1. 'Prairie Lace' Crapemyrtle.

stood temperatures of –20°C on 5 occasions with no dieback of the type frequently occurring with many cultivars and seedlings. During the prolonged severe winter of 1980–81, 16 of the original 60 selections from the EMS treated population were killed, the tops of 12 others were killed but re-grew from the root system, 19 were damaged such that new growth began below the old inflorescence but above the soil line. The remaining 13 selections, including 'Prairie Lace', were not damaged. During this same winter, the cultivars 'Peppermint Lace', 'Watermelon Red', 'Near East', 'O-Spring', and 'Ozark Spring' growing in adjacent rows were moderately to severely damaged.

#### Propagation

Softwood cuttings taken from the original parent during May or early June of 1979, 1980, 1981, and 1982 rooted 100% in a medium of peat and perlite under intermittent

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mist. Cuttings have been taken from plants resulting from cuttings taken in 1979, 1981, and 1982. Growth and flowering remain consistent with the parent.

#### **Availability**

The availability of 'Prairie Lace' is being increased and will be accessible to interested nurserymen in the near future.

#### **Literature Cited**

1. Intl. Atomic Energy Agency. 1970. Manual on Mutation Breeding. Tech. Rpt. No. 119. Vienna, Austria.