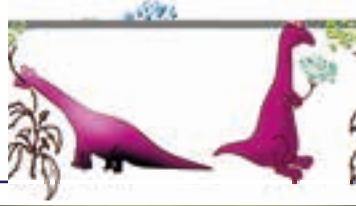


JOURNAL

FRIENDS OF THE "SHAMROCK" HYDRANGEA COLLECTION

Newsletter n° 30 - 2019



www.hortensias-hydrangea.com



Letter from the President *Bryan Woy*

Dear friends of the Shamrock Collection and Garden,
You are receiving this issue of your association's Journal n° 30 a little late in a somewhat turbulent context, particularly given that the headquarters of your association, 42 Route de l'Église, will eventually have to be moved, although it will remain in Varengeville, close to the Collection itself. As we announced in our call for subscriptions, our annual sale of hydrangeas will still take place as planned on 27 and 28 April at n° 33, opposite n° 42, the current headquarters. Several other events have marked the life of our association. Some of them have made us very sad. The death of our friend Patrice Fustier, the founder, with his wife Hélène, of the Journées de Courson plant festival, and that of the photographer Patrick Lamache, the son of Josiane and Henri, who were among the very first supporters of our activity. On the side of positive achievements, we can welcome the new edition of our "International Index of Hydrangea Cultivar Names" for the period 2012-2018. This International Index (in 4 languages, including Japanese) is the result of a long-term effort, sadly delayed by the death of our former president Bernard Schumpp. It is valuable in many ways, not least as a means of avoiding buying the same plant with two different names. We are particularly grateful to the American Hydrangea Society, based in Atlanta, Georgia, for supporting us in this publishing work, along with all the other expressions of friendship we have so consistently received from them.

Letter from the President

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Today, through its presence on the Board of the *Conservatoire des Collections Végétales Spécialisées*, the French conservatory of specialised plant collections, your association has put in an application for official recognition as a manager of national collections by the French Ministry of Agriculture (the GEVES group, *Groupe d'étude et de contrôle des variétés et des semences* - the genetic resources office).

You will find on the page dedicated to our thanks the names of all the people who have helped us during the past year. Nor do we forget all those who have been so active, for 25 years now, in making the Shamrock Collection what it is today, the largest known collection of hydrangeas in the world.

New members 2018

Jeanne ASSERAY- LEGAUD	Perrine & Jean MAILLET
Marie-Madeleine BARLE	Sandrine & Philippe MOUTON
Elisabeth BELLEGO	Véronique OZANNE
Bernie & Janique BOUTRY	Marie-France PAQUET
Ghislaine & J.-Pierre CRESCENTINI	Jean-Pierre PARADZINSKI
Nathalie DOAT	Magdalena & Christian PIART-SEREGO
Marie-Claire GIRARDIN	Fabrice & Nadine PICARD
Christine GUIGON	Xavier POTTIEZ (BE)
Peter HOLLAND (UK)	Bruno & Martine RANSON
Marcin KOWALCZYK (POL)	Barry ROBERTS (CA)
Monique LABBÉ	Michel & Monique SCRIBOT
Hélène LEGALL	Rabin TANGI
Felicitas LE SAINT	Marie-Odile THOUVENIN
Marie-Madeleine BARLE	Isabelle VAUGHAN

New introductions of hydrangea cultivars

'Angélique'
'Blue Bouquet'
'Choco Pur'
'Confetti'
'Dallian'
'Élegance'
'Elleair Anniversary'
'French Bolero'
'Gold Rush'
'Hichiyô'
'Karatsu'
'La Vie en Rose'
'Lady Oshie'
'Marshmallow'
'Midori Uzu'
'Ningbo'
'Rosemary Foster'
'Runaway Bride'
'Tandem'
'Tinkerbelle'
'Wolong'
'Yufuzansetsu'

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The articles in this journal are published under their authors' responsibility.

The annual hydrangea festival took place in April in Varengeville, at the home of our hosts Bruno Blanckaert and Bérengère de Bodinat, who are always so hospitable. It was the opportunity to officially name a new hydrangea: *Hydrangea serrata* 'Varengeville', selected by the Shamrock Garden, in the presence of Patrick Boulier, the mayor of Varengeville. It was Bérengère who wetted the new baby's head. Jérôme Leclerc took care of buying a stock of the plants to sell to the inhabitants of Varengeville. We also thank our members who contributed so actively to the success of this festival: Martine Merlin, Bernard Tordeurs, Jean-Pierre Péan, Galia Guillaume, Gilbert Baudoin, André Diéval, Madeleine Alves, Daniel Kuszac, Guy Lahogue, Josiane and Henri Lamache, Jean-Marie and Christiane Rouet, Christiane Le Scanff, Anne Nicolle, Nicole Hagneré, Antoine Brunet of "Jardiland" (who transported plants) as well as the exhibitors: Jean-Baptiste Lefebvre of "Chênes de Caux", André Diéval of "Hortensiartois", Emmanuel Gasdon of "Sol en Cimes"; and the professionals who support us by supplying us every year with plants from their production: Kees Eveleens of "Hortensia France Production", Lionel Chauvin of "Chauvin Diffusion", Jean-Paul Davasse of "Boos Hortensia", Henri Mercier of "Sicamus", Bruno Malinge of "Malinge Horticulture" and Jean Renault, always an ardent and important contributor; Didier Boos of "HW2", who was present this year, coordinated the arrivals as usual.

For woodcutting and clearing work we once again find our dream team, André Diéval, Madeleine Alves, Jean-Marie Rouet and Jean-Marc Schoepfer, assisted by the invaluable Hervé Lepetit and this year by Emmanuel Gasdon for the pruning of the alley of lime trees.

For dead-heading the hydrangeas (200,000 flower heads) we thank the team from "La Traverse" educational centre, led by the efficient and enthusiastic Marie-Jo Boulanger.

For pruning the *H. paniculata*, Jean-Marie Rouet was the most involved, with other local or non-local volunteers including Danièle and Etienne Hoyé, Corinne's father, as well as Marie Dabrainville, Natasha Mitrofanova and Irina Strelnikov. Last but not least, what would the garden be without the efforts of our regular Tuesday quartet: Anne Nicole, Claire Perrin, Jean-Marie Rouet, and Jean-Marc Schoepfer?



Bernard

Martine

Madeleine

Henri

Nicole

Josiane

E a s y - t o - g r o w *Hydrangea serrata*
illustrations

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H. serrata 'Ai Hime'



H. serrata 'Aya Ezo Yae'



H. serrata 'Besshi Temari'



H. serrata 'Fuji-no-Taki'



H. serrata 'Iyo Temari'



H. serrata 'Kocho-no-Mai'



H. serrata 'Kuju-no-Hanabi'



H. serrata 'Mikata Yae'



H. serrata 'Momoiro Bana'



H. serrata 'Murasaki Kobai'



H. serrata 'Niji'



H. serrata 'Noh Murasaki'



H. serrata 'Sasa-no-Mai'



H. serrata 'Shichihenge'



H. serrata 'Shiro Fuji'



H. serrata 'Takeomi'



H. serrata 'Tosa-no-Mahoroba'



H. serrata 'Tosa Ryukufu'

Easy-to-grow *Hydrangea serrata*

Robert Mallet

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These are cultivars that we have been observing in the Shamrock collection for several years and have not had to replace due to repeated mortality like some others. The growing conditions combine well-drained, acid soil that is shaded but sufficiently bright. Watering, and mulching with fresh grass cuttings, is done regularly during the summer. Plantings done with “water grains” (Polyter) seem to give very good results. In this list we classify the plants into small, medium and large shrubs.

‘Ai Hime’ is one of the small plants preferred by the Japanese. Its colour is deep red or blue. It requires a shaded location.

‘Aya Ezo Yae’ sometimes known just as ‘Aya’, is a medium shrub, extremely free and continuous flowering, with an off-white to pink colour. Its flowers, double and densely packed, are charming.

‘Besshi Temari’ has hemispherical inflorescences with a mixture of pink and blue. It is of medium size.

‘Fuji-no-Taki’ is a medium-sized plant, with double white flowers with a green to pale yellow heart, very long-lasting. It blooms faithfully every year in the Shamrock Garden in a shaded location.

‘Iyo Temari’ is a small shrub with delicate pink inflorescences of hemispherical shape and serrated sepals.

‘Kocho-no-Mai’ is a very pretty little low-growing plant with star-shaped white flowers, tinged with pink.

‘Kuju-no-Hanabi’ is a low-growing, covering plant with hemispherical inflorescences and double star-shaped flowers of a deep pink. It remains decorative for a long time.

‘Mikata Yae’ is a tall and vigorous shrub. Its double flowers are star-shaped, pink or blue according to type of soil.

‘Momoiro’ or ‘Momobana’: its names mean “pink colour” and “pink flower” because its inflorescences are always pink whatever the type of soil. It is a medium shrub to be placed in a shaded location. It is sensitive to drought.

‘Murasaki Kobai’ is a medium shrub of a deep pink colour. Its foliage is richly coloured in autumn.

‘Niji’ is the first of the season to flower, at the same time as *H. scandens* and *H. virens*. Its name means “rainbow”. It is of medium height.

‘Noh Murasaki’ is a small shrub with light pink flowers and a sturdy habit.

‘Sasa-no-Mai’ has spherical inflorescences, and its flowers are long-lasting.

It is a pretty little shrub with rather a covering habit.

‘Shichihenge’ is given as a synonym for ‘Ai Hime’, but it seems darker in colour. The long stamens are grouped in the centre of the flowers and produce a superb effect.

‘Shiro Fuji’ is a very pretty medium sized shrub with multiple double white flowers. It is very free-flowering.

‘Takeomi’ is a plant discovered by Corinne Mallet and which is now sometimes marketed under the false name ‘Cap Sizun’. Flowering is early and recurrent. The sepals are serrated. The flowers are double and densely packed. Its colour is bright pink; rarely blue, except in very acid soil.

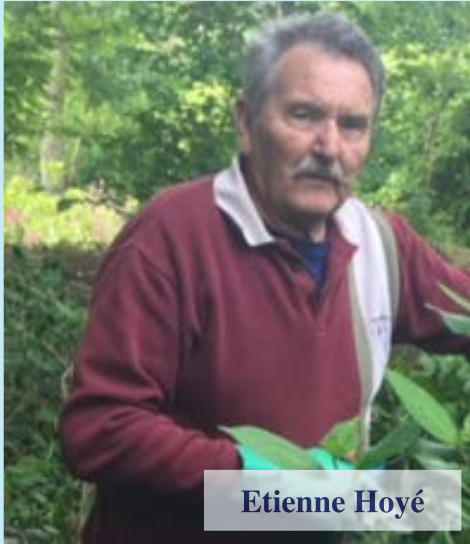
‘Tosa-no-Mahoroba’ is a very free-flowering medium shrub with pink star-shaped flowers, turning to deep pink at the end of the season; they can be pale blue in very acid soil. It has a compact habit.

‘Tosa Ryukufu’ is a medium shrub with pink flowers, slightly “rainbow-like” and marbled with green, like ‘Niji’. Flowers are closely packed and have long white stamens.

Work at the Shamrock Garden

Illustrations

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Etienne Hoyé



Danielle Hoyé



Corinne



Daniel Kuszac



J.-Marc Schoepfer



André Dieval



Anne Nicolle

On 24 and 25 May, Danièle and Etienne Hoyé (Corinne's father) came to help us dead-head the hydrangeas.

In June, it was our faithful friends Daniel Kuszac, Madeleine Alvès and André Dieval who came to do pruning work. André and Madeleine returned to work in the Garden in December. Let us not forget to mention Tuesday's ever-faithful team with - faithful among the faithful - Jean-Marie Rouet, assisted by Anne Nicolle, Claire Guérin, Jean-Marc Schoepfer and Christiane le Scanff.

Hydrangea 'French Bolero'

Didier Boos

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A long-standing collaboration exists between the academics of Agrocampus-Ouest and the plant growers of Angers: visits and cross-exchanges between growers and researchers, identification of old varieties, application of a specific propagation system developed by a local researcher (HFP - Hortensias France Production), application of a principle of hybridisation between theoretically incompatible species (Hydranova), etc.



A free transfer of rights to the Boléro cultivar (renamed 'French Bolero' ®) to the HW2-Hortensia d'Angers group by Agrocampus-Ouest researchers took place in April 2017. This shrub, planted and observed in the area reserved for the CCVS national collection in the Allard Arboretum, has exceptional flowering qualities and good behaviour in the garden; the Agrocampus-Ouest team, which had been working on interspecies hybridisations, is now ceasing these activities and wishes this variety to be protected and grown by the HW2-Hortensia d'Angers group of growers in Angers. The application documents for protection were submitted to the CPVO at the end of 2017. Currently, the plant is under observation in Géves for 2 years, in accordance with the legislation. Greenhouse cultivation tests for more "horticultural" production with a view to sales for Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, etc., gave excellent results in 2018, also confirming the qualities of 'French Bolero'® as a plant for florists.

The official presentation took place at the IPM International Trade Fair in Essen from 22 to 25 January 2019. To this end, member companies of HW2-Hortensia d'Angers began, at the beginning of December 2018, an exceptional off-season flowering campaign to ensure that they could present flowering plants at the IPM exhibition. The three growers exhibiting at IPM used identical communication elements: posters, roll ups, chromos, folders, flyers, etc.; growers not exhibiting at IPM have to use the same communication elements during their shows or sales. Member companies of HW2-Hortensia d'Angers are the only ones entitled to multiply and produce 'green' examples of the plants in Europe*, their customers must bring them into flower (force them), whether in greenhouses, shade houses, or in the open air, in identified pots provided by the group; the same applies to all communication elements: chromos, posters, roll ups, flyers, etc. in order to guarantee a strong identity for the plant and its place of origin. Presentation in Angers: a presentation to the general public took place during the *Premiers Plans* film festival from 25 January to 3 February 2019 as part of the partnership between the festival and Angers plant people (the nurserymen Plandanjou, Silence ça pousse, etc.) in the lobby of the *Le Quai* theatre. This partnership follows the 2018 one that involved floral decoration of the *Grand Théâtre*. Other presentations are planned at Terra Botanica and the Château d'Angers in the hydrangea garden. The presentation in Paris is scheduled for spring at the SNHF in rue de Grenelle.

*licences may also be granted to some companies from other countries (e. g. Japan)

Daniel Kuzsac's new year greeting for 2019

Daniel Kuzsac

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Faithful to the annual post-office calendar and therefore to the postman - in our case a postwoman – allergic to the eternal portraits of furry pets, but an unconditional supporter of the no less eternal idyllic landscapes with optional traditional Norman or Breton cottage with garden, I have totally changed tack in 2019 by opting - for whatever reason - for this - a theme that is the complete opposite.

Perhaps the setbacks of late summer, autumn and early winter last year have influenced my choice. It is true that with the deer permanently settled in Bois Lurette, fed and housed but nevertheless regularly hungry, with hordes of wild boar - those expert ploughmen - just passing through but very numerous (about twenty intrusions), all my efforts to maintain the garden have been reduced to nothing. Perhaps also the summer drought, which required three months of copious daily watering, was the straw that broke the camel's back. Anyway, all this inevitably affected my heart, which started beating like a drum, and my knees, which began painfully to seize up. This was at the end of August.

Four months later, after two hospital admissions and the loss of 10 kilos, my heart has finally resumed its cruising speed. Unfortunately, my knees have continued to play up, so the garden has been abandoned, to the great disappointment of this frustrated gardener.

As my heart has recovered, I know from experience that the garden will, too, but the time is not yet ripe for blissful optimism. Not having been able to mark 2018 with a nice white milestone, my view of life has become, if not completely black, at least light grey. My pen has become blunt, my ink has turned pale, my lyricism has given way to this outpouring ...

All that's left is the post-office calendar ... sorry to impose this blot of a greeting card on you, and thank you for putting up with it. And it is not all these general outcries of a uniform yellow, whether observed or experienced directly, these vindictive *Marseillaises*, chanting *Ça ira, ça ira* with revolutionary accents, drowning out the Christmas carols, that make us believe in a brighter future.

But now it's 2019, and I can still try to set the tone, to give you the 'A' to help you make this year a little masterpiece of harmony with your surroundings and your environment. A hymn to joy, tolerance, sharing, generosity. A top-of-the-range year, a year with hardly any Friday the 13ths, lily of the valley in all seasons, four-leaf clovers and ladybirds in abundance. A year with open arms ready to hug and with hands outstretched, far from raised arms and closed fists. A year of fraternity.

The new year brings the new horticultural trade show season across the nation and the world. I had the good fortune to be able to return to Germany for one of the largest shows in the world staged in Essen January 22-25. Eight giant halls filled with 1546 companies representing 46 countries selling products and services, everything from A to Z . Plants from Abelia to Ziziphus, from cactus and orchids to hydrangeas and oaks; living and plastic ; chemical companies both traditional and eco friendly, tissue culture labs, greenhouse builders, machine sellers from tractors to golf carts. There were soil suppliers, container sellers, I.T. companies and irrigation experts, all imaginable products and services.

I visited the booths of the marketing companies that handle my company's plants, the growers that grow our plants and companies that may be interested in our product line. A number of companies carry one or more hydrangeas which of course are wildly popular all over the world. One breeder association, Hydrangea Breeders Association BV, located in the Netherlands had a large line of florist/cut and landscape hydrangeas with several new introductions.

Three of the new most eye catching double hydrangeas were : 'Feather', 'Feather Blue' 'Flame' I was told that Aris Horticulture Co. is the US producer of this association's product line. The most prominent hydrangea I saw promoted at nursery booths was Plant of the Year winner at Chelsea Flower Show, 'Runaway Bride'

To have a clear idea of all the hydrangeas that are offered at this show is impossible in only one or two days but it was quickly apparent that hydrangea madness is alive and well throughout the world. Small world indeed as I ran into a local friend on my last day.

Work in autumn 2018

As usual, the logging and clearing team, led by André Diéval and accompanied by Madeleine Alves, met at Shamrock for two days' hard work. Daniel Kuszac was ill and could not join them as in previous years. Two major projects were planned. The first was to cut down a few more of the spindlier paulownias in order to plant new ones. This meant orienting each one with a rope to avoid damaging the plantations; and then cutting up the trunks, stacking them and removing the branches.

The second project had become urgent. The aim was to prune the branches on the western side of the lime tree alley that were getting in the way of north-south circulation in the collection. This work was carried out with the help of Emmanuel Gasdon from "Sol en cimes". All the branches, sometimes over 10cm in diameter, were passed through a shredder and the shredded material was then transported to the crop circle. Our thanks to Emmanuel who was such a powerful help to us, with the assistance of Jean-Marc Schoepfer and Madeleine Alvès.

Finally, a very large new bed was planned, cut out and covered. It should be receiving many introductions this spring.



Christiane Le Scanff and B. Jehenne



Emmanuel Gasdon



Madeleine Alvès and Robert Mallet



Jean-Marc Schoepfer and Emmanuel Gasdon



From left to right and top to bottom: Hydrangeas 'NeoCistus' in blue, 'NeoCistus' in pale violet, 'NeoDomaine de Perré', 'NeoGold' leaves, 'NeoGold' flowers, 'NeoLaMartinière', 'NeoAmethyste', 'NeoAtmosphère' inflorescence, 'NeoAtmosphère' detail of a sterile floret, 'Neobi', 'NeoCristal', 'NeoDiadem', 'NeoPerle', 'NeoPoulaine', 'NeoRubis', 'NeoSaphir', 'NeoTopaze', 'NeoVillage de Chédigny'

All my creations are marked with the name of the Neoflore company, a symbol of innovation, with the prefix “Neo”, often followed by the name of a famous or remarkable garden. ‘NeoCistus’, for example, is named after the very beautiful and remarkable garden of Cistus (79150 La Coudre) and offers semi-double, fine and serrated flowers of a delicate azure blue, ending with sublime late-season faded flowers, from late August to the beginning of winter.

Another example is ‘NeoLaMartinière’, a very delicate *Hydrangea serrata*, dedicated to Michel Davo’s arboretum (37250 Veigné), which is also a remarkable garden: La Martinière. Each petal is a finely chiselled jewel coming in all shades of blue and from white to purple, ending with crimson in November!

These two fine shrubs also have beautiful foliage, making them ideal for use in semi-shade, along an alley or in a lightly wooded area, for example. ‘NeoVillage de Chédigny’, with its sumptuous red veined pink petals, bordered by a white fringe, is dedicated to the only village in France classified as a *Jardin Remarquable* (outstanding garden): Chédigny, in Indre-et-Loire. This hydrangea is also very long-lasting. ‘NeoGold’ has golden foliage, with flowers in rare shades of green to old rose, ‘NeoRubis’ has copper-green to purple foliage, and a profusion of small bright pink inflorescences, ‘NeoPerle’ has inflorescences composed of a myriad of “pearls” that open up to reveal the stamens; ‘NeoSaphir’ is all in pastel shades. I have a special fondness for ‘NeoTopaze’ and ‘NeoAmethyste’, two splendid shrubs from 1.60 to 1.80 m tall with huge petals in rare colours, all in contrast and harmony.

To discover these treasures, there is no shortage of ideas. In Saint-Epain (37800), in a locality called Les Maisons Rouges, the nursery is happy to welcome you directly, all year round. The neoflore.com online shop also presents the complete collection, with beautiful illustrations. But Neoflore is also present at various plant festivals (7 April 37250 Veigné, 21/22 April 72310 Bessé sur Bray, 4/5 May 86240 Saint-Benoit, 18/19 May 37310 Chédigny, 9/10 June 79360 Prissé-la-Charière), including the one I am organising in my own garden, in Saint-Epain, on 15 and 16 June (10-18 h): Botanipassion (theme of the year, The little known delights of the garden), which brings together about twenty professional collectors who come to share their passion and their latest finds with the public.

H y d r a n g e a s i n J a p a n

H o r t e n s e B o o s

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Japanese life is punctuated by the seasons. Each month corresponds to a natural phenomenon, or a particular flowering period, and is marked by different important social and cultural events. The blooming of hydrangeas is one of them; and although it takes place in June, during the rainy season, tourists flock, armed with their umbrellas, to participate in this particular time of the year.

Five days in Nagasaki

During my stay in Japan, when I spent a year exploring the country from North to South, I decided to visit Nagasaki.

This city is sadly known for the explosion of the nuclear bomb on August 9, 1945, but also for having been the only port open to international trade; only the Dutch were allowed to trade with a Japan closed to foreigners since the isolationist policy introduced at the beginning of the Edo period. They were settled on Dejima, an artificial island, near Nagasaki, which they were not allowed to leave. As I was staying with local people for 5 days, my host told me more about this period: the history of Franz Phillip von Siebold and what would make hydrangeas the symbol of the city. A Bavarian doctor, botanist and naturalist, Siebold worked for the Dutch East India Company based in Dejima. He founded a botanical garden there and opened courses in medicine and natural history. As early as 1828, he sent important collections of the country's natural products, books, art objects, plants and so on to Batavia, donating them to the Leiden Museum. Despite the ban on mixing with the Japanese population, he fell in love with Kusumoto Taki and had a child. Unjustly suspected of spying, he was expelled in 1829 with all his collections and also a hydrangea which he named 'Otaksa' (O Taki San), in reference to his wife's name. He thus participated in the spread of hydrangeas throughout Europe.

This love story is well known to the people of Nagasaki who perpetuate its memory on a daily basis. Indeed, there are references to hydrangeas all over the city, whether on traffic signs, bus stops, sewer pipes... but that is not all. Every year, 5000 plants are featured during the Nagasaki "Otaksa" hydrangea festival, which takes place in late May/early June in various parks in the city: Siebold Memorial Museum, Nakashimagawa Park, Dejima, and Glover Garden.



cast iron plaque in Nagasaki



porcelain plaque in Nagasaki

A discovery in Yakushima:

Setting out in search of Princess Mononoke, and lost in the primary forest that covers the small island of Yakushima, south of Kyushu, I discovered, by chance on a path, what seemed to me to be a hydrangea, but whose leaves were not familiar to me. I was lucky to be able to contact my parents who were taking part in the Shamrock Collection's open days, and show them my photos via the Internet, and after a brief conciliation with Corinne, the verdict fell: I had just found a *Hydrangea grossiserrata*, endemic to the island, a rather rare species... I was very proud of my discovery, but sorry I could not bring a rooted cutting back to Angers.

From Izu to Kamakura

It was June, the peak flowering season for hydrangeas in Japan! The ideal time to explore the Izu peninsula, the area where so many hydrangeas originated. So, I took a little panoramic train, whose seats facing the sea allowed me to enjoy the scenery as it passed by. I was on my way to Shimoda; a small seaside town located at the southern tip of the peninsula, a historic site where Commodore Perry landed in 1854, and finally signed the Kanagawa Convention which opened up the country after 200 years of isolationism. It is also a destination appreciated by the Japanese for its wonderful beaches and its huge 32-hectare park dedicated to hydrangeas. Located on the top of a hill, it offers a panoramic view of the centre of Shimoda and Cape Susaki. In the park, the beds of hydrangeas, some much taller than me, form a sea of flowers in different



shades of pink and blue. Visitors rush into these colourful alleys to lose themselves and take photographs without restraint. I left Shimoda to head for Kamakura, located between Tokyo and the Izu Peninsula. It is very well known for its large bronze Buddha, and you can also find hydrangea parks that are very popular with tourists. The first, Meigetsu-in, the hydrangea temple, near Kita-Kamakura station, consists of small alleys lined with hydrangeas, mostly blue, that wind their way to the temple; there are lucky charms on sale, decorated with our favourite flowers. Heading for Hasedera and its hydrangea path. Close to the Hase station, this hillside walk is the most famous tourist attraction in this region. The park is very popular: you have to queue for the whole visit. The garden contains about 2500 hydrangeas, including 40 different varieties.

Hydrangeas in Japan

Hortense Boos

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Around Mount Fuji and Hakone

Early July visit Hakone and the surroundings of Mount Fuji: Between the stations of Hakone Yumoto and Gora (the terminus), the train is full of tourists. On either side of the rails, all along the tracks, beds of hydrangeas have been planted for the pleasure of passengers: a succession of hydrangeas in various gradations of colour from white to blue to purple. The same trip is possible in the evening, after sunset, the hydrangeas are then illuminated by bright spotlights, giving the landscape an extra magical dimension.

In Hakone station, the bakery also offers hydrangea pastries. Surprising, but appetising.

From Gora station you can take a funicular, which takes you higher up the mountain and allows you to admire even more flowers, then take a cable car to finally reach Owakudani Station; the highest point from which, if the weather is favourable, it is possible to admire Mount Fuji.

Another cable car descends to the other side of the mountain where you can then take a bus to Kawaguchiko. Kawaguchiko is one of the 5 lakes that surround Mount Fuji. Located to the north of it, it is a privileged place to admire the sacred mountain.. Along the lake is Yakizagi Park, where large blue-flowered hydrangeas are planted that are reflected in the water. Near-

by you can hire a small boat for a few hours, allowing you to admire the park with Fuji-san in the background...

Magnificent!



Buddha at Meigetsu-in Temple



Souvenirs at Meigetsu-in temple



The Shimoda Park



Pastries in Hakone



The Hasedera Promenade



Mount Fuji from Yakizagi Park

Another interesting place is Mount Tenjo, accessible by cable car, or on foot for hikers, it is the ideal viewpoint for taking superb pictures of Mount Fuji. Up there the tradition is to ring the bell and make a wish while looking at the mountain. From here it takes a walk of about twenty minutes to discover a huge field of thousands of multicoloured hydrangeas. Surprising when you don't expect it!



The tourist train from Hakone to Gora

Hydrangea tea in Kyoto

Strolling down an alley in the Higashiyama district of Kyoto, a poster caught my attention: bowls in the middle of hydrangeas, immediately reminding me of infusions of 'Buddha Tea'. After a little hesitation, and informed by passers-by, who were as always very friendly towards foreigners, I found the small Buddhist temple of Reigenin, one of the oldest in Kyoto. In the temple garden grows Oamacha, a *Hydrangea serrata* whose infused leaves produce a very sweet beverage; the garden is open during the hydrangea flowering season. I drank a cup of the infusion before leaving: a warm and discreet welcome.



View of Lake Kawaguchiko

Autumn and winter in Sapporo

Crossing Maruyama Park in Sapporo in the autumn and observing the beds of hydrangeas gives a glimpse of the depth of the snow that is to come; from October onwards, the plants are bundled together to protect them from the weight of the blanket of winter snow; an activity that all the inhabitants of the city are committed to. Bushes and trees are thus packed and protected to survive the long winter months.



The temple garden



Hydrangeas in Sapporo

New American *Hydrangea paniculata*
Illustrations

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Hydrangea paniculata 'Stawberry Shake'



Hydrangea paniculata 'Candy Apple'



Hydrangea paniculata 'Fire Light'



Hydrangea paniculata 'Polar Ball' & Wim Rutten



Hydrangea paniculata 'Pillow Talk'



Hydrangea paniculata 'Zinfin Doll'

One of the reasons *Hydrangea paniculata* has been so popular for so long is that it is not very demanding. Indeed, almost all well-drained soils, rich or poor, clay or sandy, acid or neutral, are suitable for it. It prefers full sunlight, but also does well in semi-shade. Its hardiness is excellent: zone 3. In addition, the flowers make excellent fresh or dried cut flowers.

For several years now there has been a revival of interest in *Hydrangea paniculata* following the arrival on the market of a host of new, more compact cultivars, with more upright stems that do not bend during flowering, therefore giving the plants a more compact habit. However, with so many options available, how and which ones should we choose? Let's take a look at what the *Hydrangea paniculata* breeders were presenting in 2017. The trend is for compact varieties and this year is no exception. For breeders, it is increasingly difficult to really innovate, and we must be careful because, with such a wide choice, confusion is beginning to take hold, both for Garden Centres and for consumers.

***Hydrangea paniculata* 'Strawberry Shake'TM**

A new compact variety with strong stems supporting large flower heads that begin the season in white and turn to soft pink at maturity. H: 1.25-1.5m

***Hydrangea paniculata* 'Candy Apple'TM**

Almost identical to the popular H. p. 'Limelight' except that this is a more compact version. Huge lime green panicles that mature to almost pure white on strong stems that tend not to droop or collapse. H: 1.25-1.5m

***Hydrangea paniculata* 'Fire Light'[®]**

H. p. 'Fire Light'[®] with its rounded panicles, has pinkish-red flowers similar to H. p. 'Quick Fire'[®] and the upright, free flowering habit of H. p. 'Limelight'. Its large flowers open white to pinkish white in mid-summer, earlier than most other varieties of *H. paniculata*, before turning pomegranate red at maturity. Its rigid stems are well able to support its abundant inflorescences. H: 1.5-2m Breeder Timothy D. Wood U.S.A

***Hydrangea paniculata* 'Pillow Talk'[®]**

This new creation gives a beautiful parade of floral coloration. The large, dense lime green panicles change to pure white, before turning pink as autumn approaches. Its immense inflorescences, well supported by its stems, give it an upright habit. H: 2-2.5m Breeder Timothy D. Wood U.S.A

***Hydrangea paniculata* 'Polar Ball'TM**

Hydrangea paniculata 'Polar Ball'TM was selected in spring 2008 for the shape of its inflorescences, its oversized sepals, its vigour and its good production characteristics. Its early-to-intermediate flowering period produces white inflorescences that are conical to almost globular in shape. According to Tim Wood, Product Development Manager at Spring Meadow Nursery, Michigan, USA: "Its sepals are four times larger and its flower heads 50% wider than the average *H. paniculata*."

H: 1.75-2.5m Breeder Catherien Rutten, Leende, Netherlands.

***Hydrangea paniculata* 'Zinfin Doll'TM**

The idea was to take two very popular varieties and combine them to create the ideal plant, marrying the wide and dense panicles of H. p. 'Little Lamb' with the superb pink blooms of H.p. 'Pinky Winky', to produce an amazing result. The flowers of this hydrangea are a real surprise; their colouring starts with pure white, gradually changing into a subtle pink from the base to the top of the panicles, giving a two-tone effect, and turning to bright red pink when they mature. *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Zinfin Doll'TM has another attraction: very strong burgundy red stems, contrasting with the flowers. It looks a little like H.p. 'Pinky Winky' except that its inflorescences are denser and its flowering begins much earlier. Very promising. H: 1.75-2.5m A Proven Winners/Color Choice[®] selection.

Propagating *Hydrangea paniculata*

Peter Smith

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Below is the result of my successive experiments in propagating *H. paniculata* by taking dry wood cuttings.

In 2016 I made an attempt to propagate in dry wood using the traditional method. That is, taking the cutting in November, cutting above a node for the top and under a node for the bottom, heeling in sand in winter, then planting out in line in loose soil in spring. With this method I only obtained 1% of rooted cuttings.

I asked Cor van Gelderen from the Esveld nursery in Holland and Jean Renault, breeder of *H. paniculata* in France, for advice. Both of them told me to take short cuttings, with the section at the base halfway between two nodes.

In 2017 I prepared cuttings in February according to the advice I had been given. I divided each batch into two groups:

For Group A, the cuttings were dipped in an IBA rooting gel and inserted into a 50/50 mixture of peat and perlite on the perimeter of a terracotta pot and stored inside. I achieved a 20% success rate.

In Group B, the cuttings were placed in transparent containers containing water cut with activated carbon or a very weak solution of soluble IBA, all kept inside. A whitish growth appeared on the lenticels, which I took for roots, but they were apparently only aquatic lenticels produced as a reaction to the submersion. None of the cuttings took root or even showed callous tissue.

From different sources found on the internet I obtained additional information. Here is a summary of all this. Obviously, cuttings must have a callus at the base before roots can be produced. Apparently if the upper buds start before the callus appears, rooting will not take place. The key is to maintain a certain amount of heat at the base to encourage root formation and to keep the top of the cutting cool to prevent buds from starting before the callus is formed.

In 2018 I prepared a first batch of cuttings in the first week of February. These were immersed for 24 hours in a solution of 0.002 or 0.003% soluble IBA, then separated into 3 groups:

In Group A, the cuttings were inserted into a 50/50 mixture of peat and perlite, placed on a heating table without covering them with fabric and stored in a small greenhouse in the garden. That February was very cold and the temperature at the top of the cuttings remained a few degrees above freezing while the outside temperature dropped to -10°. I had to install a small heater to keep the temperature above freezing. After 4 weeks, some buds had just started while others had not. I gently lifted a few cuttings to see what had happened. Most had produced a callus and on some of them it had grown to show the beginning of rooting. Some had not produced a callus at all.

Propagating *Hydrangea paniculata* continued

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In Group B, the cuttings were inserted into a 50/50 mixture of peat and perlite around the perimeter of a clay pot, placed on a heated table and stored inside in an unheated room. After 4 weeks the cuttings were looking good, much better than those in the garden, but I didn't look at the formation of the callus on them.

In Group C, the cuttings were placed in black plastic containers (therefore without light) containing water cut with a hydroponic fertiliser compound, "Lewatit cation exchange" (some of them with activated carbon, but this did not make any difference). One advantage of the hydroponic medium is that we can observe what is happening more frequently. After 4 weeks most of the cuttings had produced an important callus and some of them showed roots sticking out through the callus; I transferred these into a mixture of peat and perlite. However, some cuttings had not produced any callus at all, although they were treated in the same way as the others.

The latest experiments with cuttings sent by the Shamrock collection in mid-March.

When I received these cuttings the air temperature had increased considerably compared to the previous February and I was afraid that the buds would appear before the calluses were formed, thus not producing roots. As neither the callus nor the buds need light in their first stage of development, I kept them for 4 weeks in total darkness in my cellar on a heated table in a mixture of peat and perlite, also in a hydroponic mixture. About 50% of the cuttings took root (the best result to date); even better for the hydroponic mixture. However, the subsequent growing period was longer and real growth could only be observed at the end of the summer.

In total, among cuttings of the nine cultivars received from Shamrock, at least one cutting has taken root for each cultivar, except for *H. paniculata* var. *velutina*. In most cases, only one or two cuttings of each cultivar took root.



Lewatit



black containers



Peter Smith

Patrice Fustier

Cécile Lapoyade Deschamps

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In association with H  l  ne Fustier, we are deeply saddened to inform you of the death of Patrice Fustier on Saturday, 9 June 2018.

The creator in 1982, with his wife H  l  ne, of the *Journ  es des Plantes de Courson*, this friendly gathering of passionate amateurs became, thanks to their intuition and passion, "THE biggest French meeting place for European horticulture". During all these years, his talent, his inexhaustible energy, and his endearing personality united many enthusiasts, who found themselves in a friendly and warm atmosphere, transmitting horticultural know-how, defending plant diversity and sharing the pleasures of the garden. A unique concept, created by this visionary genius and widely copied since then, enabling the

creation of a privileged meeting place between the exhibitors, presenting exceptional ranges of plants, and an audience of plant lovers, from the most inexperienced to the most professional.

Patrice and H  l  ne were aware of the importance of perpetuating the Courson plant festival, which had become a "cult" event, so they entrusted it to the *Fondation du Domaine de Chantilly* in 2015.

Patrice had warmly supported this transfer of the event to Chantilly, allowing it to find its rightful place within our estate.

Patrice was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Fondation from 2006 to 2016, working with passion for the development of the *Domaine de Chantilly* and bringing all his sensitivity to the park.

We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Helene, his daughter Rapha  lle, and his granddaughter Charlotte, and to all his family and friends, and assure them of our deepest sympathy during these difficult times.

He will always remain in our hearts and minds, with all our friendship and gratitude.

Late season champions



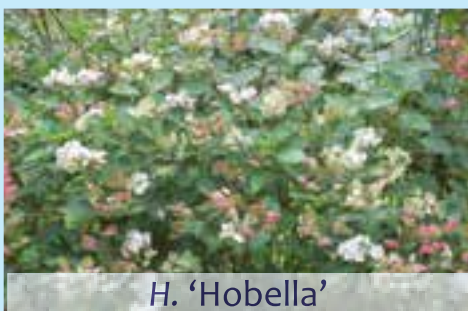
H. 'Fian  ailles'



H. 'Louis Sauvage'



H. 'Leuchtfeuer'



H. 'Hobella'



H. 'James Grant'



H. 'Violetta'



H. macrophylla 'Otaksa'



H. 'Odensee'



H. 'Libelle'

The hydrangeas above were noticed this year at Shamrock Garden, because at the end of the season, in addition to the beauty of the autumn colour of their inflorescences, they all had a second flowering.

Naming of the hydrangea ‘Varengeville’ during the “Shamrock” festival 2018

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Hydrangea serrata ssp. *yezoensis*
‘Varengeville’

It was during our “Shamrock Plant Festival” that a *Hydrangea serrata* ssp. *yezoensis*, a cultivar selected by us, officially received its name: ‘Varengeville’. After a speech by Patrick Boulier, the mayor, and another by Bérengère de Bodinat, it was the latter who did the christening honours for the hydrangea ‘Varengeville’. It will soon be available for sale from André Dieval (Hortensiarlois).



Bérengère de Bodinat



Dominique Duthu, Patrick Boulier, René Gueudin,
Bérengère de Bodinat, Bryan Woy

A report on the Shamrock Garden in the TV programme “Histoire de se balader”



As part of his series of reports on places to visit, *Histoire de se balader*, Vincent Chatelain decided to interview Corinne about the Shamrock Garden. A first broadcast took place on 20 January, 2019 and a second on Wednesday, 6 February. This report is available as a podcast on the France 3 Normandie television channel website.

Shamrock Plant Festival 2018

Illustrations



A few weeks before the new edition of our Plant Festival on 27 and 28 April, still at 33 route de l'Église in Varengueville, we look back almost 20 years and meet again the same friends of the Shamrock Collection who have worked to ensure the growing success of this celebration. Here are some of them: (from left to right and from top to bottom)

Madeleine Alves and Gilbert Baudouin - Nicole Hagneré and Jean-Pierre Péan - Jean-Marc Schoepfer - Patrick Boulier, Robert Mallet and Bruno Blanckaert - Bryan Woy, President - Jean-Baptiste Lefebvre (Chêne de Caux nursery) - Jean-Marie Rouet and Bernard Tordeurs - Pierre Courquin - Josiane Lamache, Nicole Hagneré, Daniel Kuszac and Madeleine - André Diéval, Daniel and Didier Boos (President of Hydrangea World Wide) - Henri Pavie and Henri Lamache - Marion and Cédric Basset (Pépinière des Avettes) - Martine Merlin, Daniel and Madeleine.

LATEST TIPS FOR WATERING

In 2018 we needed about 80,000 litres of water to water Shamrock's plants (mainly in the Green Dragon wood, but also for the *H. aspera* and even (to a lesser extent) the *H. paniculata*. Note the increases from year to year: 40,000 in 2016, 60,000 in 2017...

The following questions need to be considered:

WATERING IN THE EVENING OR IN THE MORNING?

We think that a plant benefits better from an evening watering, because this gives it the whole night to recover before the new day begins. A good mulch of fresh grass clippings (10cm) will help retain the moisture for as long as possible.

For *H. serrata*, watering should take place every 3 or 4 days during the summer. But plantations made with "water grains" (such as Polyter, or Aquaperle) allow watering to be spaced out. These granules, which will reach 100 times their volume by swelling with water, are incorporated into a mixture of local silt soil and compost for geraniums (which also retains 60% of its weight in water).

REMINDER: In hot sunny situations, don't be afraid to shade with all the means on hand (umbrellas, parasols, shades made with Nortene agricultural netting, pergolas). Leaving a slight depression around the plant at the time of planting is also a valuable aid to avoid water running off and to allow time for it to penetrate, thus saving precious time for the waterer.

THIRSTY OR TOO HOT?

Be careful, a plant can be thirsty, or simply too hot. In the latter case, watering again can kill the plant. Just touch the earth with your hand to see if it is already moist enough.

IMPORTANT: Remember that in extreme drought conditions, a plant can always be replaced, but not the person watering it – so be careful of heat stroke.

THE ADVANTAGES OF DROUGHT!!!

We do observe fewer diseases (botrytis, cercosporiosis...) during periods of drought. Flowers have less tendency to rot and more to dry out, keeping their autumn colour longer. Plants grow better thanks to more frequent watering and sunshine.

Announcements, notable visits and comments from visitors



Shamrock Festival 2019

Plant festival on 27 and 28 April 2019

33 route de l'Eglise

Varengeville sur mer

10.00 am – 6.00 pm

This annual event, so eagerly awaited by hydrangea enthusiasts, will bring together a very large number of cultivars produced by the nurserymen who support our association, which manages the Shamrock National Hydrangea Collection (CCVS).

We will also be pleased to welcome two local nurseries: the Lecuyer nursery in Héricourt en Caux, which always has excellent garden plants, and the Les Chênes de Caux nursery in Valliquerville, which specialises, among other things, in perennial plants. We will also have the opportunity to discover a new hydrangea, 'French Bolero', bred in Angers, which will be presented by Didier Boos

president of the HW2 association (Hydrangea Worldwide) Finally, we will welcome the publication of the new edition of the International Directory of Hydrangea cultivar names» (2012-2018), which so many enthusiasts have been looking forward to.

Notable visits in 2018

Christian VERMANDER (landscape architect)
Jan OPRINS (nurseryman) (BE)
Thierry LAMANT (APBF, CCVS)
Raphaël ARNOULD (Nancy parks and gardens)
Marc HOUDON (Parks & Gardens Director, City of Angers)
Antoine HAMON (Abeillus Nature & Jardin)
Simon SMITH (Collector, UK)
Graham WATTS (Collector, UK)
Ilse BEUNEN (Ikebana)
Philippe TAQUET (palaeontologist, ex Director, Museum of Natural History)
John & Mern BRETT (Pres. Atlantic Rhodo. & Horticultural Society) (Nova Scotia)
Bob HOWARD (Collector, Nova Scotia)
Frances RASCH (RHS Jury member)
Barry ROBERTS (Heritage Hydrangea) (CA)
Maxime Van de SANDE (Vert'Tige nursery)
Ralf LENAERTS (Botanic Treasures)

Visitors' remarks

This beauty is too captivating - there isn't even a dead head to rest your eye on!
Very beautiful flower beds...
Magnificent is an understatement.
It's too beautiful.
It radiates serenity.
It's an enchantment, it makes you happy.
My favourite is 'Hopaline': I'm a painter and you can only get this blue with Prussian blue.
Never seen before - unheard of!
A magical enchantment.
A showcase of emotions.
It's amazing!
It's a killer!
You think you're in a giant sweet shop or surrounded with lace in a wedding dress shop.
It's an extraordinary garden, the best kept secret in Normandy!
Grandiose!
It's a delight for the eyes and the heart.
Unsurpassed late-season colours –as mysterious and intriguing (and almost unimaginable) as those used in the paintings of Edmond Dulac. Bravo!
So calm & quiet. I've discovered that hydrangeas can be trees but also charming tiny shrubs.
Fantastic, incredible, it's a wonderful dream!

Contact the Association

Association des Amis de la Collection d'hydrangéas Shamrock
(ou «Association Shamrock»)
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Picture credits

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