

Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association
Invasive Plant Voluntary Phase-Outs / Barberry Cultivars

June 2010

The Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association and its members are voluntarily imposing an industry ban state wide on the following 25 *Berberis thunbergii* cultivars and parent species (wild type):

- Angel Wings,
- Antares.
- var. atropurpurea,
- ‘Bailtwo’ Burgundy Carousel[®],
- ‘Monomb’ Cherry Bomb[™],
- Crimson Velvet,
- Erecta,
- Gold Ring,
- ‘Bailsel’ Golden Carousel[®] *B. koreana* x *B. thunbergii* hybrid,
- Inermis,
- ‘Bailgreen’ Jade Carousel[®],
- ‘JN Redleaf ‘Ruby Jewel[™],
- ‘JN Variegated’ Stardust[™],
- Kelleris,
- Kobold,
- ‘Anderson’ Lustre Green[™],
- Marshall Upright,
- Painter’s Palette,
- Pow Wow,

- **Red Rocket,**
- **Rose Glow,**
- **'Bailone' Ruby Carousel®,**
- **Silver Mile**
- **Sparkle,**
- **'Tara' Emerald Carousel® *B. koreana* x *B. thunbergii* hybrid,**
- **Wild Type (parent species – green barberry)**

Based on scientific research, much of which is currently being done at the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture, the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association and its members acknowledge that the above list of cultivars represents an unacceptable risk to Connecticut's environment.

It's important to note that we are removing from production and sale 13 high-seed-producing cultivars above the level of the parent species (green barberry) and another 12 cultivars that produce seed at a rate less than the green barberry. The cultivars remaining in cultivation after this ban are in the lowest 10 percent of the spectrum of viable seed production based on the research by Dr. Mark Brand at UCONN.

Most of the sales and production of *Berberis* cultivars in Connecticut in this list are concentrated in "Rose Glow", which up to this point has been a big seller. By including this cultivar along with the others listed above, we estimate annual sales in our state of the 25 cultivars we will self-ban at \$2.5 million retail, and over \$5 million wholesale.

Our industry members as environmental stewards have taken this step to self-regulate, based on data now becoming available. The following details outline our voluntary phase-outs:

- CNLA will formally enact this voluntary ban starting July 1, 2010.
- As of the adoption date NO NEW production of these cultivars will take place.
- There will be a 3 year phase-out, from the adoption date, of these cultivars to allow plants currently in production to be moved out of the industry.
- An education campaign will be launched to help inform the general public of the risks associated with these cultivars.
- An effort to bring the mass merchants into honoring this agreement will be made by communicating directly with the buyers for those chain stores.
- No listed plants would be brought into the State of Connecticut from other states

- Future efforts will be made, based on scientific data as it becomes available, and appropriate declarations will be made as necessary.

CNLA and its green industry allies have always maintained the position that self-regulating on this issue is much more effective than government regulation. It allows quicker response to future plants that may be deemed Invasive by scientific data. It preserves the incentive to responsibly develop new and improved cultivars in the future. It will not create an unfair advantage for out of state businesses. It does not impose an undue financial hardship on the businesses in the green industry in Connecticut. And with self-regulation, the industry's heart and soul is invested in making the voluntary ban work.

This new policy of CNLA could also have national repercussions by encouraging growers and their Associations in other states to follow the science in making decisions to phase down invasive plants that are proven to be harmful.

UConn's nearly seven years of research on barberry confirms that *every* plant is different—even cultivars within a species. Decisions to ban plants must be done after careful research when there is evidence that cultivars within a species may not be as invasive as the parent species.