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Clerodendrum species as Flowering Potted Plants

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The *Clerodendrum* species (>450) have a wide variety of traits that make them candidates for new floricultural crops. Characteristics that make them attractive are variation in type of foliage, production of many inflorescences on one plant, and some flowers continuously bloom and have a short production cycle. These plants be used as an indoor flowering potted plant and planted outdoors during the summer. A review of the characteristics indicated that eight species had promise.

Clerodendrum thomsoniae (Figure 1) is the primary species that has been used in the trade and grown as a flowering potted plant and patio plant. It is a twining, vine-like scrub and is considered a day-neutral plant. It is hardy in zones 10 and 11. It is also grown in zone 9 where it is often root hardy. It is commonly called the “bleeding-heart vine”. The leaves are ovate, elliptic or oblong-ovate, 6 or 7 inches long and glossy

above with deeply depressed veins. The inflorescences are in cymes. Flowers have a large white calyx and a crimson corolla.

Clerodendrum ugandense (Figure 2) is the second most researched species. It is hardy in zones 10 and 11. It attains a maximum height of 9 feet, with leaves elliptical, faintly toothed, dark to medium green, about 5 inches long, smooth and slightly glossy. The inflorescence is a corym. Flowers are almost orchid like with small red calyces from which project four blue obovate petals and one purple-“lipped” petal. Stamens are purple, and recurved projecting upward.

Clerodendrum quadiloculare (Figure 3) is hardy in zones 10b and 11. The shrub grows to 20 feet and may be trained to a small tree form. The underside of the leaves and stems are reddish-purple, foot long lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate and dark green with lighter

colored veins on the upper surface. The flower clusters are 1 foot long with many 1-inch white, five-petaled flowers, in umbels, with very long pink tubes and protruding white stamens.

Clerodendrum bungei (Figure 4) is adapted to zones 8 through 11 and possibly in warmer parts of 7. The plant is invasive and has mostly unbranched stems that will grow as high as 10 foot. The leaves are long petioled, broadly ovate to 1 foot long and coarsely toothed. The inflorescences are large, densely packed (to 8 inches wide), convex, rounded corymbs. The flower bud is dark violet and opens into a five-petaled pure pink flower. The plant suckers with spreading roots.

Clerodendrum philippinum (Figure 5) is adapted to zones 9 through 11. It is a medium-sized shrub growing to 10 feet. The stems are seldom branched like *C. bungei* and suckers like *C. bungei*, but is not invasive. The dark green leaves are about 1 foot across, ovate to triangular, pubescent and deeply veined. The fragrant inflorescences are in densely flowered terminal clusters with each flower shaped like a small rose, ivory to peach blush.

Clerodendrum speciosissimum (Figure 6) is root hardy in zone 9a, relatively dependable in 9b, and hardy in zones 10 and 11. Leaves are ovate to 1 foot long, cordate entire or toothed and densely pubescent. Flowers are bright scarlet and form on terminal panicles 1.5 ft (0.5m) long.



Figure 1. *C. thomsoniae*.



Figure 6. *C. speciosissimum*.

Clerodendrum paniculata (Figure 7) is commonly known as the “pagoda flower”. It grows in zones 9 through 11 and reaches 6 to 8 feet with leaves that are a foot wide, orbicular to ovate with deeply depressed veins. Flowers are carmine to scarlet and appear all year in 18 inch long, densely flowered terminal panicles that resemble a Chinese pagoda. Flowers consist of a 3 inch tube, which ends in a 2 inch wide fan of petals.



Figure 2. *C. ugandense*.



Figure 7. *C. paniculata*.



Figure 3. *C. quaduloculare*.



Figure 6. *C. wallichii*.

Clerodendrum wallichii (Figure 8) is “Wallich’s Glory Bower”. It grows in zones 7B through 9B and reaches 6 to 10 feet tall in its native habitat. It has elliptical, dark green, leaves that are about 5 inch long, with a rough texture and rather glossy. The inflorescence is a corym and the photoperiod of this species is not known. Flowers are almost orchid like with small white calyces from which project four white obovate petals and another “lipped” petal. Stamens are white, and recurved projecting upward.



Figure 4. *C. bungei*.



Figure 5. *C. phillippinum*.

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