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July 2010 Nursery Newsletter

[Download our current inventory](#)

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New Nursery Web Presence



Check out our newly redesigned [JFNew website](#). In addition to easier navigation, additional information, and more images, the re-vamped site also has a much more extensive [nursery presence](#). Learn more about our plant and seed products, bioengineering tools, and news and special offers. The new "[Request a Quote](#)" function has already proven to be quite popular -- we've received \$2,200 in orders since it

launched. Point your browser to www.jfnew.com and [tell us what you think](#).

National Native Seed Conference

At the first [National Native Seed Conference](#), held May 17-21 in Snowbird, Utah, JFNew's Mike Rudecki gained first-hand knowledge about native seed operations working to produce better seed lots. One highlight was a tour of a common garden operation in Ephraim, Utah. A common garden is a government-owned operation where native seed collected in the wild are planted to determine if their agronomic characteristics would allow them to be produced on a large scale. In addition, a key issue raised at the conference was the severe decline in native pollinators, jeopardizing the future of native habitats. From connections made at the conference, JFNew is exploring ways to team with the [Xerces Society](#), a nonprofit organization that works to preserve invertebrates and their habitats, to develop native pollinator seed mixes.

Featured Native Plant: Fragrant Sumac



- Botanical Name: *Rhus aromatica*
- pH range: 5-7.5
- Height: 2'-8'
- Habitat: Dry, sandy prairies, savannas, open woods, and open fields
- Form: Upright, spreading shrub
- Bloom color: Yellow, forming red berries
- Bloom time: May

Fragrant sumac is a low-growing shrub most often found in upland habitats with relatively poor soils, including dry, rocky prairies, limestone bluffs, and sandy savannas. Small yellow flowers form on female plants (yellow catkins form on male plants) early in the spring just before the leaves bud out. Flowers develop into red, hairy drupes, each containing a hard, red berry. This species' most noticeable characteristic is the strong scent produced when the leaves are crushed. The fruit persists on the shrub well into winter and provides a food source for over-wintering birds and small mammals.

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Featured Native Plant: Ninebark



- Botanical Name: *Physocarpus opulifolius*
- pH range: 4.5-6.5
- Height: 3'-9'
- Habitat: From moist meadows to dry, gravelly prairies in almost all light conditions
- Form: Upright, spreading shrub
- Bloom color: White to pink
- Bloom time: May to June

Ninebark is a hardy, adaptable shrub species found in much of the Eastern U.S. in many different habitats. Many butterfly, moth, and insect species feed on the nectar of the white flower clusters, which form in May. These clusters produce reddish-brown fruit in the fall, which is used as a food source by birds and rodents. In the fall the foliage turns golden yellow. Ninebark owes its name to its bark, which constantly peels and sheds to reveal new growth below.

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Outdoor Production Area

This season the nursery constructed a new 31,000 square foot shaded frame area primarily to stage plant orders and provide additional outdoor gallon production space. It is anticipated to hold approximately 8,000 flats or 40,000 gallon pots. By having a shaded holding area, we will reduce the amount of water needed to maintain the stock. Also, during the growing season soil temperatures in these containers can easily soar above 100 degrees, which can result in stunted root growth. Reducing soil temperatures enables us to produce and maintain an even higher quality stock.

Seed Production Plantings



High precipitation and warm temperatures together have helped our newly installed 266,000 wetland and prairie plant plugs grow rapidly. Presently we have 23 different plant species that we are cultivating for seed production. JFNew plans to continue to plant new species each season to increase our local native

seed inventory.

Note about Availability

This spring our available inventory has varied drastically on a daily basis--frequently we have been selling new product immediately after it has become ready to ship. If you need stock for fall planting, to ensure that your stock will be ready, we recommend placing your order as early as possible. Check our [current availability](#) on our website to ensure we have your materials in stock.

Nursery Events

Look for JFNew at these upcoming events:

[ILASLA Summer Mixer](#) - July 15, Aurora, IL

[ILCA Summer Field Day](#) - Aug 5, Bork Nurseries, Onarga, IL

[Dayton Green Expo](#) - Aug 5, Heapy Engineering, Dayton, OH

[MNLA Summer Field Day](#) - Aug 12, Walter's Gardens, Zeeland, MI

For more information on all Nursery events and specials, [click here](#).

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