



## The Dawes Arboretum

Trees ∞ History ∞ Nature

### ***Pieris*, Japanese andromeda, Evaluation at The Dawes Arboretum**

Twenty-two selections of Japanese andromeda (*Pieris*) were evaluated for foliage quality and flower bud survival on March 29, 2001. These evaluations, in regard to the performance of these plants over the winter, are purely of an empirical nature.

Locations vary in sun and wind exposure and soil type. The rating of excellent, good and poor are assigned on the overall appearance of the plant. Production of flower panicles is noted, but was not factored into the appearance rating.

Eight selections rated excellent. Many plants exhibited foliage and flower bud desiccation over winter. Some selections had branch dieback and fungal spotting on foliage. Below is a summary evaluation and performance rating for each selection.



*Pieris japonica* 'Suzuki', Suzuki Japanese pieris

***Pieris* 'Brower's Beauty'** - two plants accessioned in 1998 evaluated in two locations. Both have dark green foliage with no desiccation or fungal spotting. All flower buds are alive. The plants are 2' tall by 12' wide. This selection rates excellent.

***Pieris* 'Forest Flame'** - three plants accessioned in 1995 evaluated in one location. Severe foliar desiccation with no live flower buds, severe stem dieback. Their survival and hardiness in central Ohio is doubtful. Size is 1' tall by 2' wide. This selection rates poor.

***Pieris japonica* 'Cavatine'** - three plants accessioned in 1997 evaluated in two locations. All have glossy, dark green foliage, no foliar desiccation. Two produced copious flower panicles; the third produced few. All flower panicles alive and emerging. Specimens approximately 2' tall and wide. A very handsome selection that rates excellent.

***Pieris japonica* 'Christmas Cheer'** - two plants accessioned in 1996 evaluated in one location. Both with severe foliar desiccation. Few flowers produced, all dead. Size of plant is 1' tall and wide. This selection rates poor.

***Pieris japonica* 'Coleman'** - one plant, accessioned in 1997, has dark green leaves, no flower panicles produced the previous year and no foliar desiccation or fungal spotting. This selection receives an excellent rating for appearance, but note its absence of flowering.

***Pieris japonica* 'Daisen'** - two plants accessioned in 1996 evaluated in one location. One has moderate leaf desiccation on southeast side, no flower buds initiated last year. Several old panicles still evident. The other has minor foliage desiccation and most flowers dead. Foliage has a droopy appearance. Plants are compact, 2' tall and wide. This selection rates good.

***Pieris japonica* 'Dorothy Wycoff'** - four plants in two locations evaluated. All had thick, dark green leaves, with minor desiccation of flower foliage on two plants. Few flower panicles produced, most alive, buds dark maroon in color. One had rodent damage at the base with one branch dying as a result. The largest plant, accessioned in 1996, was 4' tall and wide. This selection has beautiful, dark reddish green foliage throughout winter and rates excellent.

***Pieris japonica* 'Geisha'** - three plants accessioned in 1996 evaluated in one location. All specimens with moderate foliar desiccation on southeast sides. Eight inches of two branches dead from desiccation. Foliage is dark green and more narrow than most selections. Minor flower bud loss. Plants approximately 22' tall by 2' wide. This selection rates good.

***Pieris japonica* 'Karenoma'** - three plants accessioned in 1995 evaluated in one location. Foliage is dark green on two plants, the other shows minor foliar and flower panicle desiccation on the upper half, southeast side. Many old flower panicles persist and are somewhat detracting. Most flower panicles alive and emerging. The largest of the three is 32' tall by 2' wide. This selection rates good.

***Pieris japonica* 'Mountain Fire'** - two plants accessioned in 1993 evaluated in two locations. A third plant placed out in 1996 died last year. One plant shows minor leaf spotting on older leaves, newer foliage is dark green and clean. No flowers produced. While no foliar desiccation is evident, there was some dieback. However, this is attributed to dry soil conditions at the site. Its size is 4' tall by 4' wide. The other specimen has severe fungal spotting, no flowers produced and no foliar desiccation. This plant is 4' tall by 3' wide. This selection rates good for the former, poor for the latter.

- Mike Ecker,  
Horticulturist