SOUTH CAROLINA STARS

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For gardening and landscaping information, call 1-888-656-9988 or visit the Clemson Extension Home & Garden Information Center http://hgic.clemson.edu.

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Vines, Shrubs & Trees Rooted in The Palmetto State!
Vines, Shrubs & Trees

Rooted in the Palmetto State!

The South Carolina Stars are out! These exceptional vines, shrubs, and trees were bred or introduced by South Carolinians who nurtured and cultivated these fine specimens for your enjoyment.

The USDA cold hardiness zone map divides our state into a series of cold hardiness zones based on average minimum winter temperatures.

For beauty and durability, select South Carolina Stars and watch them shine in your landscape!
**Red Crossvine**

*Bignonia capreolata*  
`Atrosanguinea`

**SITING:** Full sun to partial shade is ideal; however, Red crossvine adapts to most soils, including those with low fertility. In mid-Spring, clusters of two-inch long, narrow, trumpet-shaped orange-red flowers emerge over 3 to 4 weeks. Repeat flowering occurs throughout the growing season. Red crossvine has branched tendrils with adhesive disks at their tips that enable it to climb up walls, pillars, arbors, and other supports. Red crossvine offers year-round interest with shiny, dark green leaves that turn reddish-purple in the fall and attractive flowers that are cherished by hummingbirds.

**CARE:** Plant in a prepared bed with plenty of room and attach to a strong support. Growth is fast and may be rampant. When grown in beds, root suckers may have to be pruned out to contain its spread. Prune after flowering in the spring to reduce size. Flower buds are set in late summer and early fall, so winter pruning can remove spring flowers.

**Type:** Evergreen to semi-evergreen vine  
**Zones:** 5-9  
**Size:** 30 ft.+  
**Habit:** Climbs by tendrils with small disks at their tips for clinging to supports  
**Growth:** Fast  
**Light:** Part shade to full sun  
**Moisture:** Medium-low  
**Soil:** Adaptable  
**Flower:** Purplish-red  
**Fruit:** Brown capsule  
**Leaf:** Lustrous dark green; reddish-purple in winter  
**Bark:** Reddish-purple  
**Pest Resistance:** High

**DISCOVERY:** Woodlanders Nursery, Aiken, SC  
This native was discovered by plant hunter and nurseryman, Bob McCartney, co-owner of Woodlander's Nursery in Aiken. In the early 1980s, McCartney spotted this crossvine in full bloom growing up a telephone pole at a used car lot on Williamsburg St. Quite familiar with the typical orange flowers of crossvine, this unusual red-flowered variation prompted McCartney to immediately take cuttings. Fortunately he did, because the next day the telephone pole and crossvine were removed, and the car lot was bulldozed.

McCartney quickly put this vine into production at Woodlanders; however, it was not until *Southern Living* magazine profiled this red-flowered version of crossvine that it became a popular “must have” plant.  
[www.woodlanders.net](http://www.woodlanders.net)

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**Pink Showers Asian Star Jasmine**

*Trachelospermum asiaticum*  
`Pink Showers`

**SITING:** This vine is suited for full sun to part shade locations and fertile, welldrained soils. Pink flowers make this a unique plant because the species usually has only white or pale yellow blooms. Flowers are fragrant and appear throughout the growing season. Pink Showers is typically used as a climbing twining vine on an arbor or other vertical support; however, it can also be grown as an attractive trailing groundcover.

**CARE:** Plant 6 ft. apart in a prepared bed and attach to a strong support. To reduce size, prune after flowering or in late winter.

**DISCOVERY:** Nurseries Caroliniana, North Augusta, SC  
Ted Stephens, co-owner of Nurseries Caroliniana, was touring a greenhouse in Japan that specialized in plants with colorful, variegated leaves. He caught sight of a tray of Jasmine with dark green leaves and not a hint of variegation. Stephens was surprised to see these ordinary-looking plants at this specialty nursery. Unwittingly, he told one of his traveling companions that the vines must have some exceptional trait to be in this nursery, perhaps pink flowers, he joked. Stephens had never seen a pink-blooming Confederate or Asian Star Jasmine anywhere in America. Through the interpreter Stephens asked the grower what was significant about this tray of Jasmynes. The grower replied, “Pink flowers.” And the rest is history. Stephens brought the plant back to North Augusta and introduced it to the marketplace with the name “Pink Showers.”

[www.nurcar.com](http://www.nurcar.com)

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**Pruning Tips**

Become familiar with the characteristic form of your tree before removing any live branches.

Use sharp tools to make clean cuts for rapid healing.

Remove dead, damaged, or diseased wood (the “3 Ds”) at any time of year.
SITING: Full sun to light shade, and moist soils with low to medium fertility are good locations for Amethyst Falls Wisteria. Lovely lavender-blue flower clusters appear in spring and on-and-off throughout the summer. Amethyst Falls is unusual because it flowers the first year and grows more slowly than its Asian relatives. Train it on an arbor or other strong support.

CARE: Plant this vine 6 ft. apart near a strong support. Prune after flowering or in late winter to reduce size. Pruning in mid-summer will encourage a late summer flush of flowers while controlling its size.

HIGH PROFILE PLANTINGS:
Plantings of Amethyst Falls Wisteria can be admired at the Fran Hanson Discovery Center in the South Carolina Botanical Garden in Clemson and the J.C. Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh, NC. Amethyst Falls is also a favorite landscape vine among many of Atlanta’s landscape architects.

Amethyst Falls Wisteria

DISCOVERY: Head Ornamentals, Inc. Seneca, SC
Twenty years ago, a Wisteria plant growing at Head-Lee Nursery, Inc. in Seneca, SC caught the attention of Bill Head, plantsman and co-owner. Head admired its tight, compact growth habit and repeated periods of bloom from spring into late summer. An added bonus was its flowers that were never lost to frost in South Carolina. Growers from as far north as southern Wisconsin (zone 5) reported success with this vine.

www.gardendebut.com

Christmas Jewel® Holly
Ilex x ‘HL10-90’ PP#14,477

SITING: Plant Christmas Jewel® Holly in full sun to partial shade; it adapts readily to many soil types and fertility levels. Leaves are green and with blunt spines. Berries are apple-red and develop without being pollinated by a male holly. Christmas Jewel® Holly is a female holly that naturally forms a pyramidal shape and makes an excellent specimen, hedge, or container shrub.

CARE: Plant 4 to 5 ft. apart. Water regularly until plants are well-established. Christmas Jewel® Holly produces a dense, attractive hedge with minimal pruning, and requires relatively little maintenance when its cultural requirements are met.

DISCOVERY: Head Ornamentals, Inc. Seneca, SC
In 1990, Bob Head, plantsman and co-owner of Head-Lee Nursery, knew this newly discovered seedling had potential. Its leaves were smaller, deeper green, and glossier than normal, and its spines formed blunt points rather than wicked sharp points of one of its parents, Perny Holly (Ilex pernyi). No male pollinator was needed, and its heavy fruit-set lingered until June and July. Its tight upright growth habit added to its appeal. At 19 years of age the original plant has grown 10 ft. high and 6 ft. wide. Head has received positive customer feedback from Wisconsin to the Gulf Coast states.

www.gardendebut.com

Watering Tips:
After planting, follow these general guidelines:
Water the root ball area with 2 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter daily for 2 weeks; every other day for 2 months and then once weekly until established. Adjust water according to soil type, temperature, rainfall and other irrigation.

Do not overwater or allow the soil to become waterlogged.

Even drought-tolerant plants need to be watered regularly until established.
Carolina Ruby Yaupon Holly
*Ilex vomitoria*
‘Carolina Ruby’

**SITING:** Carolina Ruby prefers partial shade to full sun and fertile soils but will adapt to a variety of dry and occasionally wet locations. Dark evergreen leaves and abundant berries make Carolina Ruby a unique shrub that can be used in a variety of locations including shrub borders, and perennial borders, foundation plantings, and hedges.

**CARE:** Plant 3 to 6 ft. apart. Carolina Ruby tolerates pruning and requires little maintenance.

**HIGH PROFILE PLANTING:** Plantings can be viewed at the Nurseries Caroliniana Garden Center in North Augusta, SC.

**DISCOVERY:** Nurseries Caroliniana, North Augusta, SC.

Carolina Ruby was a seedling from a weeping Yaupon Holly that caught the eye of plantsman Ted Stephens. It was so dark green that he thought it had to be a Japanese holly. He watched and waited, and then in 1997, the shrub produced a staggering crop of red berries that it completely encircled the stems! By the way, the Latin botanical name of Yaupon Holly, “*vomitoria,*” refers to the strong black, highly caffeinated “tea” made from the dried leaves. Native Americans drank the tea in ceremonial purification rites to induce vomiting, which cleansed them of bodily or spiritual impurities.

[www.nurcar.com](http://www.nurcar.com)

Snow Muffin Loropetalum
*Loropetalum chinense*
‘Snowmound’ PP# 11,766

**SITING:** Light, filtered shade, especially in the morning, and slightly acidic, well-drained soil is an ideal location for Snow Muffin®. White to cream-colored fragrant flowers appear in April. Five-year-old plants measure 16 inches high by 30 inches wide. Leathery dark green leaves are smaller than the species. New leaves are light green. Plants are relatively deer resistant. Snow Muffin® Loropetalum makes an excellent specimen or groundcover for the shrub, tree or perennial border and is an ideal, low-maintenance replacement for azaleas.

**CARE:** Plant 2 to 3 ft. apart. Snow Muffin® requires little maintenance. Only light pruning is needed to maintain a smaller and more compact shape.

**DISCOVERY:** Head Ornamentals, Inc. Seneca, SC

Plant breeder Bob Head discovered this unusual seedling growing among the other Loropetalums in his nursery. It appeared to be dwarf and compact compared to the rest. After evaluating it for 16 years, Snow Muffin® had maintained its dwarf stature. After 20 years, it had only grown 3 ft. high by 6 ft. wide. Its foliage was a darker green than any other Loropetalum and Snow Muffin® retained its leaves throughout the winter, making a dense, evergreen statement. The creamy flowers were abundant as well, much more so than the species.

[www.gardendebut.com](http://www.gardendebut.com)

**Landscaping Tips:**

Have your soil tested and take the guesswork out of fertilizing

Apply 3-4 inches of mulch to at least the dripline (outermost branches) of trees; keep the mulch a few inches away from the trunk. Mulch retains moisture and protects the roots and trunk from maintenance equipment.

Inspect your landscape on a regular basis and be on the lookout for pests and other problems that may arise.
Aiken County Sweetbay Magnolia
Magnolia virginiana var. australis ‘Aiken County’

SITING: Aiken County prefers full sun to part shade and fertile, acidic soils that are well-drained to wet. Leaves are exceptionally glossy and have attractive silvery undersides that are most noticeable when the wind rustles them. This Sweetbay Magnolia cultivar retains its foliage well into winter. Fragrant, creamy-white flowers appear in late May and early June and eventually fade to yellow; its red fruits attract wildlife. Aiken County Sweetbay Magnolia may be used as a specimen in the shrub or tree border; grown as a hedge, or espaliered along a fence or wall. It tolerates wetland areas, highway margins and buffer strips. Aiken County’s narrow crown is useful in spaces where aboveground growth is restricted.

CARE: Aiken County can be grown as a single- or multi-stemmed small tree. Once established, the plants are relatively flood- and drought-tolerant. Plant them 15 to 20 feet apart and provide water regularly until they become established.

Type: Evergreen shrub or tree
Zones: 6-9
Size: 40-50 ft. H x 15-25 ft. W
Habit: Upright
Texture: Medium
Growth: Medium
Light: Full sun to part shade
Moisture: Adaptable
Soil: Well-drained to wet
Flower: White, fragrant
Fruit: Red
Leaf: Green above, silvery below
Bark: Gray, thin
Pest Resistance: High

Teddy Bear® Magnolia
Magnolia grandiflora ‘Southern Charm’ PP#13,049

SITING: Teddy Bear® Magnolia is well-suited for locations in full sun or light shade, and fertile, acidic, well-drained to occasionally moist soils. Deep green shiny leaves are 3 to 6 inches long with distinctive cupped edges. The undersides of the leaves have the look and feel of reddish-brown felt. Fallen leaves linger on the ground and do not readily decay. Showy white 6 to 8 inch wide fragrant flowers appear in spring and periodically from summer to early autumn. Small 2- to 3-inch long reddish gray cones produce bright red seeds that attract birds. Teddy Bear® makes an excellent specimen or showy screen.

CARE: Plant individual trees as attractive specimens or in a group spaced 8 to 12 ft. apart for a hedge. Provide water regularly until it becomes established. Pruning is not necessary to maintain its attractive pyramidal form. However, Teddy Bear® can be easily maintained at a smaller height and spread with regular pruning.

Type: Evergreen tree
Zones: 7-9
Size: 25 ft. H x 15 ft. W
Habit: Dense, upright, pyramidal
Texture: Coarse
Growth: Medium to slow
Light: Full sun to part shade
Moisture: Medium
Soil: Fertile, well-drained
Flower: White, fragrant
Fruit: Red
Leaf: Rounded, cupped
Bark: Grayish brown, thick
Pest Resistance: High

DISCOVERY: Weeks Nursery, Trenton, SC
Chuck Weeks, a former employee of Nurseries Caroliniana, was out hunting one day when he spotted a Sweetbay Magnolia with extremely glossy leaves. He marked its location and returned later to get cuttings, but discovered that a forest fire had burned the tree to the ground. For two years Weeks waited until this unique Sweetbay magnolia recovered and was large enough for him to take cuttings for propagation at the nursery. Weeks named the tree “Aiken County” after the location of its discovery.

Planting Tips:
- Dig the planting hole 2-3 times wider than the root ball.
- Never dig the hole deeper than the height of the root ball.
- Examine the root ball. If the roots appear to be “circuiting,” cut 1 to 2 inch deep slices in the root ball. This will promote new root development.

DISCOVERY: Head Ornamentals, Inc. Seneca, SC.
In the early 1980s, plant breeder Bob Head found a gem among his thousands of open-pollinated Southern Magnolia seedlings. This seedling was quite different from the rest. As it grew, Head noticed its tight compact growth and very dark green leaves with unique rounded and cupped edges. The undersides of the leaves were covered in reddish-brown felt. As the seedling grew and became a tree, Head took cuttings and found that rooted plants bloomed within three to four years. The parent plant that he first discovered is now 22 years old and measures 20 ft. tall and just 12 ft. wide. Head named the plant Teddy Bear® because the cupped leaves and heavily felted backs reminded him of a teddy bear’s ears.

Bracken’s Brown Beauty
Southern Magnolia
*Magnolia grandiflora* ‘Bracken’s Brown Beauty’

**SITING:** Bracken’s Brown Beauty prefers a location in full sun to part shade and fertile, well-drained acidic soil that is occasionally moist. Wavy, deep green leaves are relatively small (only 6 inches long) and feltly brown underneath. Showy white flowers are 6 inches across and appear in summer and early fall. Eye-catching fruits are bright red, 2 to 3 inches long, and attractive to birds. Fallen leaves do not readily decay.

**CARE:** Plant Bracken’s Brown Beauty 15 to 30 ft. apart and provide water regularly until it becomes established. Young trees may have to be pruned to maintain a single, central leader.

**HIGH PROFILE PLANTINGS:** Look for plants at the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport and along Highway 123 towards Clemson. Other locations include Disney World, the homes of Travis Tritt, Kenny Rogers, Ross Perot, and the former home of Martha Stewart.

Claudia Wannamaker
Southern Magnolia
*Magnolia grandiflora* ‘Claudia Wannamaker’

**SITING:** Claudia Wannamaker performs best in full sun, although it tolerates part shade. A fertile, well-drained to occasionally moist soil that is slightly alkaline to acidic is ideal. Its horizontal branches withstand ice and snow loads. Its deep green leaves have brown undersides that are slow to decay on the ground. From an early age, Claudia Wannamaker bears an abundance of showy 8- to 12-inch wide white flowers in spring and summer. In late summer 3- to 8-inch long cones open to reveal showy bright red fruits that are attractive to birds.

**CARE:** Plant Claudia Wannamaker 20 ft. apart and provide water until it becomes established, especially during dry spells. Maintain a single central leader by pruning out additional competing upright terminal shoots.

**HIGH PROFILE PLANTINGS:** Look for Claudia Wannamaker plantings at Epcot Center, Opryland, and Waterfront Park in Charleston.

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**More Planting Tips:**

- Leave the soil undisturbed at the bottom of the hole.
- Be sure the root flare - where the first main roots attach to the trunk - is at or above the soil level. You may need to remove excess soil from across the top of the entire root ball to expose the root flare.
- Break up soil clods before backfilling to prevent air pockets. Fill the hole 1/2 way, then lightly tamp. Fill the hole the rest of the way and tamp again.

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**DISCOVERY:** Ray Bracken Nursery, Easley, SC.
In the mid-1960s, an employee spotted this young sapling while walking through a Southern Magnolia planting. It was the only Magnolia in bloom, being only 12 to 14 inches tall. This was many years earlier than other Southern Magnolias! The plant was tagged, watched, and later transplanted to another location. “After transplanting,” reports David Bracken, “I noticed that the plant dropped surprisingly few leaves.” Plants were propagated, and some were sent to Dr. Michael Dirr at the University of Georgia for cold hardness testing. The trees survived temperatures of -20°F. The original plant is now 26 ft. tall, and it is expected to reach 40 ft.

[www.raybracken.com](http://www.raybracken.com)

**DISCOVERY:** Shady Grove Plantation & Nursery, Orangeburg, SC.
This tree is named for the cousin and friend of John E Brailsford, Mrs. Claudia Wannamaker of Orangeburg. Mrs. Wannamaker purchased the parent plant as an 18 inch high tree from a mail order nursery in 1945. The tree caught Brailsford’s eye at a local flower show where Mrs. Wannamaker was displaying a seed cone and flower arrangement. Mrs. Wannamaker offered to let him see the tree after he admired the leaves and seed-bearing cones. Brailsford loved the tree, and Mrs. Wannamaker gave him enough cuttings to propagate 100 grafts. After many marginally successful attempts, Brailsford eventually discovered the secret to rooting Claudia Wannamaker from cuttings. Since its introduction in 1956, Claudia Wannamaker has charmed untold legions of admirers.

[www.shadysgrovenursery.net](http://www.shadysgrovenursery.net)
Bracken's Best Cedrus Deodar Cedar
*Cedrus deodara*

**SITEING:** Full sun and fertile, acid to slightly alkaline soil that is well-drained is a good location for Bracken's Best Cedrus. Plant it away from pedestrian traffic to protect its low pendulous branches. Bracken's Best Cedrus makes an ideal specimen tree due to its majestic, graceful habit and attractive cones.

**CARE:** Plant 20 to 30 ft. apart. Although Bracken's Best Cedrus is relatively drought-tolerant, provide water until it becomes established and during periods of prolonged drought. Do not overwater. Perform structural pruning early to maintain a single central leader and to remove any competing leaders. Leave lower branches on the tree to enhance its natural beauty.

**DISCOVERY:** Head Ornamentals, Inc., Seneca, SC and Ray Bracken Nursery, Pelzer, SC.

About 10 years ago, the Brackens invited Bob Head to view an assortment of Deodar Cedars. One selection truly stood out from the rest: it grew fast, had dense needles and possessed an appealing, pyramidal growth form. Head began propagating this unique deodar cedar and named it "Bracken's Best Cedrus" or "BBC". "BBC" has grown well in many regions throughout the southeastern U.S.

www.raybracken.com

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Summer Red® Red Maple
*Acer rubrum 'HOSR'*

**SITEING:** Full sun, and fertile, moist, slightly acidic soil. Trees are often pyramidal when young and develop an oval, rounded crown with age. Young shoots and leaves are reddish-purple with silvery-white undersides. Mature leaves turn yellow in autumn, while younger leaves turn orange or purple. The fruit are attractive and not messy. Trees prefer ample above- and below-ground growing space, although Summer Red® has a narrower crown than most red maples. It makes an excellent shade and specimen tree for moist areas.

**CARE:** Plant 15 to 20 ft. apart in a moist location. Perform structural pruning early to remove competing leaders.

**Type:** Deciduous tree

**Zones:** 5-9

**Size:** 35-40 ft. H x 20-25 ft. W

**Habit:** Dense, oval shape

**Texture:** Medium

**Growth:** Fast

**Light:** Part to full sun

**Moisture:** Moist to wet

**Soil:** Acidic

**Flower:** Red, tiny

**Fruit:** Burgundy

**Leaf:** Yellow in autumn

**Bark:** Gray, thin

**Pest Resistance:** High

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**Landscape Planning Ideas:**

Besides adding between 7 to 15% to a home's value, properly positioned vines, shrubs, and trees can conserve energy and lower your utility bills by reducing the fuel needed to heat and cool a home. Savings in heating and cooling costs for a home may be as much as 15 to 50%.

Divide the landscape into "hydrozones" - areas within the design that receive low, moderate, or high amounts of water. Choose and group plants with similar water needs.

Plan to plant a tree on Arbor Day, the first Friday in December.