United States Department of Agriculture

A Conservation Plant Released by the Natural Resources Conservation Service
Manhattan, KS and Los Lunas, NM Plant Materials Centers

'Pink Lady' Winterberry euonymus

Euonymus bungeanus Maxim.

Figure 1. Photograph of winterberry euonymus displaying its fall colors and fruit production. Photograph by D.E. Herman, 1996, North Dakota Tree Handbook.

'Pink Lady' winterberry euonymus (*Euonymus bungeanus* Maxim.) is a cultivar released in 1973 in cooperation with the Agriculture Research Service (USDA /ARS) and the Plant Materials Centers (USDA/NRCS) in Kansas and New Mexico and the Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Kansas Agricultural Experiment Stations and the New Mexico State Highway Department.

Description
Pink Lady is a large deciduous shrub or a small tree with pendulous branches that grows to a mature height of 15 to 25 feet with an equal spread. The plant is usually multi-stemmed at the base or just above the soils surface. It is an introduced species that has been naturalized in this country since being imported from northern China and Manchuria in 1883. Leaves are opposite, simple, glossy, light green in color and 2 to 4 inches in length. Leaf petioles are slender and short (approximately 1 inch in length) and older leaves tend to droop due to their size and weight. Foliage is rather open and allows light to the trees interior. Fall foliage color is yellow to reddish or brown before leaf fall. Flowers are small, white and inconspicuous, but the fruit is brilliant in color. The fruit is a four lobed capsule with reddish to pink skin. The fruit remains on the plant in the fall long after all the deciduous leaves have fallen. As the capsules open, the red skin of the seed is exposed adding additional color to the fall and winter display. The leaf, fruit, and seed color are the basis for its varietal name Pink Lady.

Source
The parental materials of Pink Lady were collected from open-pollinated specimen plant growing from a stone wall on the Temple of Heaven grounds in Peking, China in 1924. The seed was collected by P.H. Dorsett, plant explorer, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and received in Beltsville, MD in 1925. U. S. Department of Agriculture's horticulturist E.W. Johnson at the Southern Great Plains Field Station in Woodward, OK propagated and distributed the species for evaluation from 1934 to 1964.The USDA Plant Materials Centers at Manhattan, KS and Los Lunas, NM evaluated this species along with other *Euonymus* species and determined that it was the most hardy and drought resistant and both centers selected it for potential release.

Conservation Uses
Pink lady can be used alone or in clumps as a medium tall species in a single row or medium shrub in multi-row windbreak plantings. It can be used as a living screen or noise barrier in recreation and wildlife areas around camp grounds and even in urban and industrial locations. Persistence of the fruit throughout the fall and into the winter months will provide color and bird food after many other wood deciduous plants have lost their fruit.

Area of Adaptation and Use
Pink Lady has been widely tested and evaluated in Kansas, Oklahoma, northern Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and portions on Nebraska. It is adapted to a wide range of soil and climatic conditions and has proven to be exceptionally chlorosis free in calcareous soils. It is adapted to USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 5b, 6, and 7a in the Central and Southern Great Plains of the USA. Additional testing may provide proof that the species may be adapted to other parts of the same zone or different zones as well.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings
Propagation by commercial nurseries will be from recently harvested, open-pollinated seed. Seed should be either fall planted or cold, moist stratified for spring planting. For field establishment, bare root, 2-0 planted stock can be used under favorable conditions. For harsher sites, that offers more of a challenge the materials should be containerized to aid in initial establishment.

Ecological Considerations
Pink Lady is known to be very tolerant of all soil types and conditions like alkaline soils that cause chlorosis (yellowing of foliage) in many other deciduous trees. It is relatively disease and insect free except some problems with crown gall (a bacterial disease) and scale insects which in large numbers can be especially damaging.

Seed and Plant Production
This variety in propagated by open pollinated seed harvested from planted blocks at the Manhattan PMC. The seed will produce plants that vary in size and spread and other factors due to its open pollinated reproductive method. This is not normally a deterrent for conservation plantings, but may not be pleasing to landscape professionals and typical home owners. The variability in size, form and other characteristics may make the plant less desirable for landscape plantings. To produce the plants from seed a cold, moist stratification period of 30 days is advisable (34° F in a moist state may induce germination and growth).

Availability
For conservation use: Commercial vendors have this plant offered for sale, but mainly as containerized stock.

For seed or plant increase: Breeder and foundation seed can be obtained from the Manhattan and Los Lunas Plant Materials Centers. There is no registered class of seed for this variety.

For more information, contact:
Manhattan Plant Materials Center
3800 South 20th Street
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
(785) 539-8761 FAX (785) 539-2034
http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov

For more information, contact:
Los Lunas Plant Materials Center
1036 Miller Road
Los Lunas, NM 87031
505-865-4684
FAX: 505-865-5163
http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov

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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <http://plants.usda.gov> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

This is a cooperative release among the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's Los Lunas and Manhattan Plant Materials Centers, Kansas State University, Oklahoma State University, Colorado State University, New Mexico State University's Los Lunas Agricultural Science, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and the USDA Forest Service.

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