UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
PLANT SCIENCES DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AND

KANSAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
MANHATTAN, KANSAS
AND
COLORADO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO
AND
NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO
AND
OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA
AND

NEW MEXICO STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'PINK LADY' WINTERBERRY EUONYMUS FOR CONSERVATION PLANTINGS

The Agricultural Research Service; the Plant Science Division of the Soil Conservation Service; the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station; the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station; the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station; and the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station; and the New Mexico State Highway Department announce the release of a superior germ plasm of winterberry euonymus, Euonymus bungeanus Maxim. to be named 'Pink Lady'. The parentage of 'Pink Lady' derives from open pollinated Euonymus bungeanus seed collected from a specimen plant growing from a stone wall on the Temple of Heaven grounds in Peking, China. Seed from the deciduous specimen plant was collected by P. H. Dorsett, Plant Explorer, U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1924; received at Beltsville, Maryland, in 1925; and distributed under plant introduction number P.I. 62418.

Seed was sent to the Southern Great Plains Field Station, Woodward, Oklahoma, in 1927. E. W. Johnson, Horticulturist, produced and distributed plants for windbreaks and ornamental plantings at many locations in the Southern Great Plains from 1934 through 1964. As a result of those field plantings and evaluations at the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Centers at Manhattan, Kansas; Los Lunas, New Mexico; and subsequent field evaluation plantings, this Euonymus was selected for release. Johnson (1951) compared this species with many others and found it to be the most hardy and drouth resistant of those Euonymus species tested.

'Pink Lady' has been widely tested and evaluated in Kansas, Oklahoma, northern Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and portions of Nebraska as Woodward accession 986, Soil Conservation Service accession number PM-0-38, and P.I. 62418.

Description: 'Pink Lady' winterberry euonymus is a large deciduous shrub or small tree that grows to a mature height ranging from 15 to 25 feet (4.6 to 7.6 meters) with an equal spread. The plant is usually multiple stemmed at or near the base or just above the soil surface.

Young leaves are bright, shiny, light green in color, rapidly developing into large light green leaves 2 to 4 inches (5.1 to 10.2 cm.) in length, pointed and heavy. Interveinal surface areas of the blade are slightly lighter green than the darker colored veins. Petioles are slender and the older leaves droop because of their size and weight. Foliage is rather open and allows the light brown bark of the older branches to add contrast to the light green leaves and young stems. Fall leaf-color ranges from yellow to reddish or brown before falling.

Flowers are inconspicuous but the fruit is brilliant in color. The fruit, a four-lobed capsule with reddish-pink skin. The fruits remain on the plant in the fall long after the leaves have fallen from most other deciduous plants. As the capsules open, the red coat of the seed is exposed, adding additional fall color. The leaf, fruit, and seed color is the basis for the name 'Pink Lady'.

Resource Conservation and Landscape Uses: 'Pink Lady' winterberry euonymus may be used alone or in clumps; as a medium-tall species in a single row or a small tree or large shrub in multiple row windbreaks; or as a living screen or noise barrier in recreational and wildlife areas, campgrounds, and urban and industrial developments, and for the enhancement of transportation corridors.

The varied leaf color adds to fall beauty and enhancement of the landscape. The persistence of fruits throughout the fall and into the winter months provides color and bird food during a period when most other deciduous woody plants have lost their leaves and fruit. The plant provides a desirable habitat for game and songbirds all year.

It has proved winter hardy in southern Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and portions of Nebraska. It is adapted to a wide range of soil and climatic conditions, and has proved to be exceptionally chlorosis-free.

Propagation: Propagation by commercial nurseries will be from recently harvested, open-pollinated seed. Seed should be either fall planted or stratified for spring planting. Seed source will be the existing plantings at Manhattan and Los Lunas Plant Materials Centers and the U..S. Southern Great Plains Field Station, ARS, at Woodward, Oklahoma. Seed and plants to establish seed orchards of 'Pink Lady' will be available to commercial growers in limited quantities from the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Centers in Manhattan, Kansas and Los Lunas, New Mexico in 1973 and 1974.

For field establishment, bare root, 2-0, plants can be used under favorable conditions; potted material has been more successful on difficult sites such as roadsides.

Reference: Johnson, E. W.-Ornamental Shrubs for the Southern Great Plains. Farmers Bulletin 2025, U. S. Dept. Agric., 1951. p. 24-25.

Victor H. Barney — June 11, 1973

United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Plant Science Division
Washington, D. C.

Date

Floyd W. Smith — Feb. 2, 1973

Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station
Manhattan, Kansas

Date

Claude L. Johnson — 27 Mar 73

Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station
Fort Collins, Colorado

Date

M. F. Wilson — April 23, 1973

New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date

Jay C. Murray — Feb 3, 1973

Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station
Stillwater, Oklahoma

Date

J E McC[illegible] — 5-2-73

New Mexico State Highway Department
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Date