

GROWER GRANT YIELDS SEED BONANZA

Last season's federal grant provided seed money to increase the number of species of Chinese herbs grown by High Falls Gardens from 35 in 1995 to 120 in 1996. An additional 160 species are in the form of ungerminated seeds or plants indoors and in nursery beds for the winter, representing a great potential for future seasons.

Serendipitous forces came together for HFG last year, as previously reported in these pages, when "extraordinary collector" Robert Newman (see Winter 1996 issue) decided to disband his greenhouse in San Francisco where he had painstakingly assembled over 800 species of Asian medicinal plants. Meanwhile, organic farmers Don and Marnie MacLean of the Thompson-r-inch Farm in Ancram, New York had provided an entire field and the use of their greenhouse as well as their herb and vegetable growing expertise so that HFG had ample facilities available.

The MacLeans and HFG applied to the Northeast Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Grower Grant program (funded under the U.S. Department of Agriculture and managed regionally out of an office at the University of Vermont) which responded with a grant of \$3,498 to help get many of the seeds and plants in Robert's collection out to New York.

Almost seven hundred "batches" of seeds and/or plants were shipped, then carefully labeled and cataloged. Best efforts were used to germinate as many different species as possible, although many arrived too late in the season and have been held over for this year. Everyone in the project had to really scramble all season long in order to keep up; fortunately, several wonderful volunteers helped out with planting, weeding and other tasks.

As visitors to the field could attest, the plants grew like weeds (in fact, some of them are considered weeds!) and forty-four species produced seeds at season's end. Many photos and slides were taken, enough for HFG to prepare a presentation on Chinese herbs which is now available to grower or practitioner groups. (Contact HFG at the address below to arrange.)

To evaluate this abundance of species and its potential usefulness to growers in the Northeast, HFG enlisted the services of herbalist Jeffrey C. Yuen who helped determine which of the species are potentially marketable

Newman Tours China, Accepts Job Offer

Robert Newman, the extraordinary collector profiled in our Winter 1996 issue, returned on November 16th to San Francisco after a seven-week tour of China.

Having set up a series of meetings with practitioners, horticulturalists and other scientists well in advance, he started in Beijing where he met with Prof. Zhang Bengang of the Institute of Medicinal Plant Development. From there he went on to see Li Li of the Shanghai Botanic Garden, Professors Chen Chong-ming and He Shan-an of the Nanjing Institute of Botany; then in Sichuan, Prof. Wu Jia-lin of the Sichuan School of Chinese Materia Medica and Liu Yu of Chengdu University of TCM.

In Kunming, Robert saw a wonderful collection of Chinese medicinal plants within the Kunming Botanical Garden. He also met with Dr. Huang Chuan-gui of Yunnan South Border Hospital and Prof. He Guang-xin, director of the Kunming Institute for Drug Control. On to Nanning, where he saw Prof. Wu Zhong-fa of the Guangxi Botanic Garden of Medicinal Plants, and then he briefly visited Shenzhen in Guangdong and also Hong Kong just prior to his return.

In Sichuan Robert saw *Coptis* growing in the mountains and in Anhui, a province near Nanjing, he saw *Pseudostellaria*, a rare herb. In the mountains of Guangxi he saw a whole grove of *Cinnamomum cassia* and also *Illicium verum*, the true star anise. He heard about extensive cultivation of *Angelica sinensis* and *Saussurea lappa* in the mountains of Yunnan, and now hopes to return there to collect material. (Continued, p. 4)

to practitioners of Chinese herbal medicine. The plant species were divided into three categories: (1) potentially marketable with favorable prospects for cultivation in the Northeast; (2) potentially marketable but cultivation appears problematic for various reasons; (3) marketability uncertain. The last category includes many "secondary" species; because many of the herbs have not been cultivated for medicinal purposes in the West, it is not yet known precisely which species of a closely-related group has the best potential to serve as the medicinal remedy. Therefore, plants of the third (**BONANZA cont'd. page 4**)

High Falls Gardens 1996 Season / Plants in Field

<u>Species Binomial</u>	<u>Remedy (Pinyin)</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Source(s)</u>
<i>Abutilon theophrasti</i>	Dong Kui Zi	Velvetleaf	China
<i>Achillea wilsonii</i>	Tu Yi Zhi Hao	Yarrow	China
<i>Adenophora</i> sp.	Nan Sha Shen	Glehnia root	Yunnan, Sichuan
<i>Agastache rugosa</i>	Huo Xiang	Mint, Korean	Domestic commercial
<i>Agrimonia pilosa</i>	Xian He Cao	Agrimony	Sichuan, Nepal
<i>Allium ramosum</i>	N/A	Allium	Unspecified
<i>Anemarrhena asphodeloides</i>	Zhi Mu	Know Mother	Japan
<i>Angelica acutiloba</i>	Dang Gui	Angelica root, Japanese	Domestic
<i>Angelica dahurica</i>	Bai Zhi	Angelica root	Beijing
<i>Angelica pubescens</i>	Du Huo	Angelica root	Sichuan
<i>Artemisia annua</i>	Qing Hao	Sweet Annie/Wormwood	Guangxi, domestic comml
<i>Artemisia apiacea</i>	Qing Hao	Sweet Wormwood	Beijing
<i>Artemisia argyi</i>	Ai Ye	Mugwort leaf	Japan
<i>Artemisia capillaris</i>	Yin Chen Hao	Capillaris	Unspecified
<i>Artemisia Gmelinii</i>	N/A	Artemisia	Unspecified
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Ai Ye	Mugwort	Domestic commercial
<i>Aster tataricus</i>	Zi Wan	Aster root	Domestic
<i>Astragalus adsurgens</i>	Huang Qi	Milk Vetch root	China
<i>Astragalus complanatus</i>	Sha Yuan Ji Li	Milk Vetch seed	Beijing
<i>Astragalus membranaceus</i>	Huang Qi	Milk Vetch root	Guangxi, domestic comml
<i>Astragalus mongholicus</i>	Huang Qi	Milk Vetch root	Beijing
<i>Astragalus sinicus</i>	Hong Hua Cai	Astragalus	Beijing
<i>Atractylodes macrocephala</i>	Bai Zhu	Atractylodes, White	Beijing, Japan
<i>Belamcanda chinensis</i>	She Gan	Blackberry lily	Nepal, Sichuan, Domestic
<i>Benincasa hispida</i>	Dong Gua Ren	Winter Melon seeds	Domestic commercial
<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>	Hong Hua	Safflower	Domestic commercial
<i>Cassia occidentalis</i>	Wan Jiang Nan Zi	Coffee Senna seeds	Germany
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Chang Chun Hua	Madagascar Periwinkle	Unspecified
<i>Celosia argentea</i>	Qing Xiang Zi	Celosia seeds	India
<i>Celosia cristata</i>	Ji Guan Hua	Cockscomb	Domestic commercial
<i>Chrysanthemum morifolium</i>	Ju Hua	Chrysanthemum flower	Guangxi
<i>Cimicifuga dahurica</i>	Sheng Ma	Black Cohosh rhizome	Domestic commercial
<i>Cimicifuga foetida/europaca</i>	Sheng Ma	Black Cohosh rhizome	Unspecified
<i>Cnidium monnieri</i>	She Chuang Zi	Cnidium seeds	Beijing
<i>Codonopsis pilosula</i>	Dang Shen	Bonnet Bellflower	Domestic commercial
<i>Coix lachryma jobi</i>	Yi Yi Ren	Job's Tears seeds	Domestic commercial
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Xiang Fu	Nut Grass/Earth Almond	Unspecified
<i>Dianthus amurensis</i>	N/A	Pinks	Domestic commercial
<i>Dianthus chinensis</i>	Qu Mai	Pinks, Chinese	Domestic commercial
<i>Dianthus superbus</i>	Qu Mai	Pinks, Fringed	China, Japan, Domestic
<i>Dipsacus asper</i>	Xu Duan	Teasel root, Szechuan	Asia, unspecified
<i>Dipsacus</i> sp.	N/A	Teasel	China
<i>Dolichos lablab</i>	Bian Dou	Hyacinth Bean	Domestic commercial
<i>Eclipta alba</i>	N/A	Eclipta	India, domestic comml
<i>Eclipta prostrata</i>	Han Lian Cao	Eclipta	China, Japan
<i>Ephedra equisetina</i>	Mu Tsei Ma Huang	Ephedra	Domestic
<i>Ephedra</i> sp.	N/A	Ephedra	Domestic
<i>Euphorbia pekinensis</i>	N/A	Euphorbia	Unspecified
<i>Ferula asafoetida</i>	A Wei	Asafoetida	Unspecified
<i>Gentiana tibetica</i>	Qin Jiao	Gentian root	Domestic commercial
<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>	Gan Cao	Licorice root	Domestic commercial
<i>Glycyrrhiza inflata</i>	N/A	Licorice root	Guangxi
<i>Glycyrrhiza pallidiflora</i>	Nai Zhui	Licorice root	Japan
<i>Glycyrrhiza uralensis</i>	Gan Cao	Licorice, Manchurian	Domestic commercial
<i>Gypsophila oldhamiana</i>	Yin Chai Hu	Baby's Breath, Manchurian	Korea
<i>Houttuynia cordata</i>	Yu Xing Cao	Chameleon plant	Domestic commercial
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Bai Mao Gen	Woolly Grass rhizome	Domestic commercial
<i>Inula britannica</i>	Xuan Fu Hua	Elecampane, Chinese	Japan
<i>Inula japonica</i>	Xuan Fu Hua	Elecampane, Japanese	Beijing
<i>Ipomoea nil</i>	Qian Niu Zi	Morning Glory seeds	Unspecified