

WHAT A SPRING WE ARE HAVING!

# STEVE'S FAVORITE SPRING PLANTS

It has been quite a spring! With the warm temperatures, we are at least 2 weeks ahead of schedule on blooms this season here in Cincinnati. Hopefully, that has translated into earlier sales for the industry. It sure has helped our attendance! This month, I have decided to share with you my favorite blooming plants I saw this spring. I have been recovering from foot surgery, so I have had more time at the computer and less time physically working. I did not realize just how much you miss when you are in full work mode as all of you are right now! The following is a sample of plants that have caught my eye this spring. Enjoy!

## TREES



### **Acer griseum**

Paperbark Maple is always a delight to see. This one was especially nice in an urban center next to a condominium unit.



### **Cercidiphyllum japonicum 'Amazing Grace'**

This cultivar is one of my all-time favorite trees for its shape, vigor, and fresh green foliage in spring! A male clone that should be more available.



### **Prunus x yedoensis 'Akebono'**

This is not a new cultivar but a great one. Abundant blooms really make this one a standout!

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## SHRUBS



**Chaenomeles  
Double Take® 'Scarlet'**

We love the Double Take® series of flowering Quince. Very showy double scarlet flowers that hold on for a long time.



**Exochorda  
Snow Day® 'Blizzard'**

Pearl-bush has always fallen into the unique category of plants. Snow Day® 'Blizzard' really elevates Pearl-bush into a crowd-pleasing showstopper!



**Abelia mosanensis  
Sweet Emotion®**

This plant always surprises me in the spring. You certainly do not think of Abelia as a spring showstopper. But this one is showy, fragrant, and hardy.



**Syringa x hyacinthiflora  
Scentara® 'Double Blue'**

An early lilac that has been resistant to powdery mildew and has wonderful fragrance. Another one of our favorites.

If you come to the [2026 IPPS-ER Conference in Grand Rapids](#) you can see all of these selections and the newest and best upgrades of your favorite shrubs from our host [Spring Meadow Nursery!](#) Kinda makes you want to come, doesn't it!

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## PERENNIALS

As a little teaser for [2026 IPPS-ER Conference in Grand Rapids](#), here are a few plants from one of our hosts [Walter's Gardens](#) that were absolutely stunning this spring!



### **Baptisia 'Golden Anniversary'**

Beautiful yellow foliage that really stands out in Spring with the contrasting indigo blue blooms makes this a winner in the landscape!



### **Epimedium 'Amber Queen'**

This Epimedium has vigor, is very showy, and has interesting flowers that makes it one of my favorite new plants this spring.



### **Polygonatum odoratum 'Ruby Slippers'**

This Solomon's Seal from Walter's Gardens has also become one of my favorites. This is a more compact grower with dark ruby stems emerging from the ground with beautiful showy white flowers to boot.

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## VINES



### ***Bignonia capreolata* 'Tangerine Beauty'**

Crossvine is underutilized in landscapes. A great native vine that performs well in full sun. 'Tangerine Beauty' has been one of our favorites. Spring Meadow has one out called 'Dressed to Thrill'. Come to the IPPS-ER conference this year and meet this plant in person!



### ***Bignonia capreolata* 'Goldfinch'**

This beautiful pure yellow blooming Crossvine found by Bill Hendricks, is fragrant and unique.



### ***Lonicera sempervirens* 'Major Wheeler'**

The best red native Honeysuckle cultivar we use. It always has loads of blooms and is super vigorous.

[Click Here for More Spring Photos](#)

Be sure to invite your colleagues to [join](#) IPPS Eastern Region and encourage them to come to an outstanding [conference](#) this year in Grand Rapids Michigan, **September 22-25, 2026!**