

# An Invitation to Join Us!

## International Plant Production Society – Eastern Region

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The International Plant Propagators' Society was formed by a group of about seventy propagators who met in 1951 in Cleveland, Ohio. The goal was to share their propagation knowledge of the many different plants they were producing or were in their plant collections. Here we are 75 years later now called the International Plant Production Society with that same simple message. To “Seek and Share” information on plant propagation and production.

**Who we are:** We are a group of people who love plants. We are people who propagate plants. We are people involved in the production of plants. We are people who educate about plants. We are people who seek out and select new plants. In other words, we are people just like you! So, if you are a propagator, involved with plant production, nursery owner/operator, botanical garden or arboretum manager, professor in horticulture, a plant breeder, join me in becoming a member in the eastern region of IPPS.

**What we do:** We share information on the propagation and production of plants. We are a plant focused organization. We share the latest information on the newest, latest, and greatest plants as well as old favorites that may have been forgotten. All of this with the goal of making our communities throughout the world more beautiful, and healthier places to live!

**Why should I become a member?** The International Plant Production Society, IPPS, has been the leader in plant propagation and production information for the last 75 years. The motto “To Seek and Share” is not just a catchy slogan. Members have access to over 70 Volumes of professionally edited papers available online dating back to the early 1950s. Early volumes include papers on germinating maples from seed, grafting maples, street tree selections including the upright Mayfield Ginkgo and the Umbrella Ginkgo,(two that I was not familiar with) and many other topics that honestly are just as pertinent for today as they were in the 1950s. More recent papers include topics like “Alternatives for Glyphosate in Nursery Production,” and so many other papers that have been presented in the seven regions of the International Plant Production Society around the world. Access to these proceedings is worth the cost of membership alone!

**Annual Conference:** Every year there is an annual conference in a different city in the eastern region. This year we will be in Grand Rapids, Michigan September 22-25. This is going to be a wonderful opportunity as we are combining with the International IPPS Tour. (See details in newsletter) Spring Meadow Nursery and Walters Gardens will headline the tours. The educational program theme is “Motivation for Innovation” featuring speakers who will energize you with the latest ideas in plant breeding and production. Dr. Tom Ranney will be our keynote speaker for the event! Talk about innovation, what better place to see production innovation than from our friends at Spring Meadow Nursery!

When I was on the Ohio Plant Selection Committee years ago, we traveled to different regions of the Midwest to look for new and exciting plants to share with the Ohio nursery industry. Those tours would include botanical gardens and arboreta, large wholesale nurseries, perennial wholesale companies, universities, and retail garden centers. These tours were outstanding. That is the exact type of tours you will experience at the IPPS Eastern Region Conference. During these tours you share the company of some of the best people in our industry. Horticultural legends who know more about plants, propagation, and nursery production than I will ever know tour alongside young professionals in the industry who are eager to learn everything they can from them. This is the most impactful experience I have had in my career! I have never experienced such a knowledgeable, caring, sharing group of plant people in my life. I invite you to share this experience at Grand Rapids with me!

I will end with this story of why International Plant Production Society is so relevant. One of my favorite trees is the Girard's Hybrid Maple. This maple is a hybrid between *Acer griseum* and *Acer maximowiczianum*. I saw the original plant in Highland Park in Rochester, New York. I found several beautiful specimens at Klyn Nurseries and purchased them for the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and one for my own landscape. So, what does this have to do with IPPS? Well, let's look back at the history of how that plant ended up in my yard. IPPS member Richard Fenicchia from the Rochester Park Bureau of which Highland Park resides brought cuttings of this plant to Pete Girard of Girard's Nursery while at an IPPS meeting in Cleveland, Ohio in the 1950s.



Pete Girard listed this hybrid for sale in his catalog in the early 70s from the original tree in Highland Park. IPPS member Bill Hendricks from Klyn Nurseries got his Acer x Girards Hybrid from Pete Girard. Bill grew the plant in his yard and several years later was propagating this plant and growing them on for sale at Klyn. Now I have one at my house and at the CZBG. Every one of these trees is beautiful! Even more beautiful are the memories of the plantsmen who made this plant available. The eye, the talent, and the care that they all shared to bring a little slice of beauty into our world! We do not just propagate and produce plants, we grow memories. Become a member of IPPS and make some memories!

If you are a member, please invite a few others to join us. If you are not a member, please join us to "Seek and Share."

[Click here](#) to join IPPS Eastern Region.