In recent years, nurserymen, horticulturists, and arborists have turned to the production and use of cultivars of important landscape trees and shrubs. What is a cultivar? The term was coined from CULTivated VARiety and was established in the first edition of the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants published in 1953 by the Royal Horticultural Society. The most recent edition of the Code (Brickell et al. 1980) is available from the American Horticultural Society.

The popularity of most present-day cultivars rests in their uniformity with regard to form, flower, and foliage. In the future more cultivars will be selected for "survival" characteristics such as pest resistance and stress tolerance. Even though must cultivars are propagated vegetative-ly, many are not, in the strict sense of the word, clones (Santamour 1976). Trees budded or grafted on rootstocks of different origins are not genetically similar in all parts. It should also be noted that a "cultivar" is a nomenclatural entity while a "clone" is a biological entity.

Before January 1, 1959, many cultivars were described as "varieties" or "forms" and given Latin names. These names are still valid as cultivars even though descriptions must be given fancy names (in other than Latin) and be accompanied by some sort of description.

The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA) has responsibility for appointing National Registration Authorities for cultivar names in genera of woody landscape plants. Of the 25 genera currently assigned to North American institutions or organizations, few could be considered as major landscape tree groups. For many years, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University has served as temporary International Registration Authority for unassigned genera and, in the course of time, took on the responsibility for such trees as Cornus, Fagus, Gleditsia, and Ulmus. On January 1, 1981, this temporary authority for unassigned genera passed to the U.S. National Arboretum. Along with this authority came the responsibility for establishing credible checklists of present cultivars of important landscape tree species. This compilation of cultivars in red maple (Acer rubrum L.) is our first installment in what we hope will be an extensive series in this Journal.

Checklists are published to encourage a stability of nomenclature, based on the prevailing rule of taxonomic priority, for cultivated woody plants. They are not intended to serve as recommendations or evaluations nor can they be used as buyer’s guides. Any attributes as to growth, form or other virtues are derived solely from the reference descriptions.

A new woody plant cultivar does not have to be patented in order that its name be officially registered. We urge all nurserymen and scientists who intend to introduce a new maple (or a plant of the many other unassigned genera) to contact Dr. T.R. Dudley at the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C. 20002 for registration forms and other information.

It is our desire to produce checklists that are reasonably complete and accurate and which, in addition, could be easily used by practicing arborists, horticulturists, and urban foresters. For many of the older names, we are indebted to the scholarship of Murray (1970). The Plant Sciences Data Center of the American Horticultural Society compiled lists of the living collections of 42 major North American arboreta and botanical gardens in 1979, and these are available on microfiche from the Society. Cultivars still grown in European gardens were taken from Bean (1970) and Krussmann (1959). Data on the more modern cultivars were gleaned from nursery catalogs, plant patents, and other published sources.

Although in normal correct usage, cultivar names are enclosed by single quotation marks (e.g. Acer rubrum 'October Glory') or preceded by the abbreviation "cv." (e.g. Acer rubrum cv. October Glory), we have deviated from this prac-
tice to emphasize the status of the cultivar names. **VALID CULTIVAR** names are shown in boldface capitals and **INVALID CULTIVAR** names are shown in lightface capitals.

There appears to be general agreement on the use of the scientific name *Acer rubrum* L., as proposed by Linnaeus in 1753, to denote the common eastern U.S. tree generally known as "red maple."

**ABLAZE** (Sarcoxie Nurs., Sarcoxie, Missouri, Wholesale Price List, Spring 1974, p. 4, 7) — has a well-rounded head, brilliant red autumn color, holds foliage late into autumn.


**ARMSTRONG II** = **ARMSTRONG TWO** (Trade-marked).

**ARBORE-VARIEGATUM** (F.A. Wiegers, Collection d’arbres, Arbrisseau, Plants, p. 4-5, 1809) — leaves flecked gold.

**AUTUMN BLAZE** — Name found in T.D. Sydnor and J.R. Holman, Sources of Shade Trees in the United States-1980, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC), Special Circ. 105, 1980 as *Acer* X ‘Autumn Blaze’ without description. Apparently a tree selected by Glenn Jeffers, Fostoria, Ohio, from a group of seedlings of putative red maple X silver maple parentage, and the tree does appear to be a hybrid. Although it is under test at OARDC in Wooster, Ohio, the name ‘Autumn Blaze’ has not been validly published and because of possible name change following patenting, it is not validated here. Probably should be referred to *A. tremeanii* E. Murray (A. rubrum X saccharinum) as defined by E. Murray, Kalmia 1: 1-42, 1969.


**COLUMN** (H.P. Kelsey and W.A. Dayton, Standardized Plant Names, p. 4-5, 1942) = **COLUMNARE**.


**COLUMNARE WALTERS** — Name found in records of Plant Sciences Data Center of the American Horticultural Society. Plant received at Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, in 1956 from Princeton Nurseries, Princeton, New Jersey, but not listed in their catalogs. = **COLUMNARE WALTERS**.


**DWARF** (H.P. Helsey and W.A. Dayton, Standardized Plant Names, p. 4-5, 1942) = **GLOBOSUM**.

**EXCELSIOR** (Handy Nurs. Co., Portland, Oregon, Wholesale Price List, Fall 1978-Spring 1979, p. 18, Trade-marked) — has broad pyramidal form, attained in early years of growth.

**FLORIDANUM** (W.G. Lauche, Deutsche Dendr. Ges. vol. 1, p. 12, 1900) — of upright columnar habit.

**FULGENS** (H.M. Willkomm, Laubholzer, Zierbaume und Geholzbaumschulen des Ritterguts Zoschen bei Merseburg, 1885, p. 19)— without description. L. Spath — has broad pyramidal form, attained in early years of growth.


**GLÄUCUM** (G. Dieck, Haupt-catalog der Obst und Geholzbaumschulen des Ritterguts Zoschen bei Merseburg, 1885, p. 19) — without description. L. Spath — has broad pyramidal form, attained in early years of growth.

**GLOBOSUM** (Parsons & Sons Co. — Kissena Nurs.—Flushing, New York, Catalog 1887, p. 12) — compact, dwarf form, flowers scarlet.


**MORGAN** (Sheridan Nurs., Canada, Trade List, Fall 1972-Spring 1973, p. 17) — selected at Morgan Ar-
boretem, Macdonald College, Quebec. Noted for its consistent, brilliant scarlet fall color, even on young plants. Registered January 1, 1971 with Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation.

NEWT. ARMSTRONG = ARMSTRONG.


PALLIDE RUBRUM (R. Weston, The English Flora, 1775, p. 1) = A. saccharinum L.

PALLUMATUM (F.L. Speth, Gartenflora 41: 63, 1892) = PENDULUM.

PAUL E. TILFORD = TILFORD.

PENDULUM (G. Kirchner in E. Potzold and G. Kirchner, Arboretum Muscaviense, Gotha, 1864, p. 186) — branches pendent, leaves large, 5-lobed; may = A. saccharinum L.

PHIPP'S FARM (Weston Nurs., Weston, Massachusetts, Cat. 1977, p. 48) — selected for long lasting red fall foliage.

PYRAMIDALE (Parsons & Sons Co. — Klasena Nurs. — Flushing, New York, Cat. 1887, p. 12) — without description.

RED SENTINAL — Name found in records of Plant Sciences Data Center of the American Horticultural Society. Plant at Univ. Minn. Landscape Arb. Apparently mis-named by nursery.

RED SUNSET (Cole Nurs. Co., Circleville, Ohio, Fall 1966 Trade List, p. 13) — “very promising new red maple selection with outstanding form and foliage — heavy-textured leaves persist and fall color is better than any we have seen.” Apparently a selection made by J. Frank Schmidt and Son Co., Troutdale, Oregon (Trade-marked).

RODESDOORN — Name found in records of Plant Sciences Data Center of the American Horticultural Society. Apparently taken from a Netherlands nursery catalog — Rode Esdoorn means “red maple” in Dutch.


SCHLESINGER (H.P. Kelsey and W.A. Dayton, Standardized Plant Names, p. 4-5, 1942) = SCHLESINGERI.


SPLENDENS (K. Koch, Dendrologie 1: 518-545, 1869) — similar to TOMENTOSUM.


TOMENTOSUM (L. Speth Baumschule, Berlin, Cat. No. 98, 1896-1897, p. 65) — leaf underside tomentose, in autumn deep red.


VARIEGATUM (J. Groinland, Rev. Hort. 34: 88-91, 1862) — leaves variegated.

WAGENERI = WAGENI.

WAGENERI (K. Koch, Dendrologie 1: 518-545, 1869) — large leaves, 5-lobed, branches pendulous.

WAGNERI = WAGENI.

WOOLLY (H.P. Kelsey and W.A. Dayton, Standardized Plant Names, 1942, p. 4-5) — probably = TOMENTOSUM.

YELLOW FLOWER — Name found in records of Plant Sciences Data Center of the American Horticultural Society. Plant at Holden Arboretum, Mentor, Ohio. Apparently an appellation given to a staminate tree by Cole Nursery Co. and propagated, but not sold or widely distributed.

Literature Cited


Research Geneticist and Biological Technician, respectively
U.S. National Arboretum
Agricultural Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.