North Carolina Agricultural Research Service  
North Carolina State University  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Notice of Release of *Weigela florida* Variety ‘Sunset’

This new, distinct cultivar of weigela, named ‘Sunset’, was developed and selected at North Carolina State University, Mills River, North Carolina. ‘Sunset’ is a chance seedling from an open pollinated female parent, *Weigela florida* (unknown parent, seeds were acquired from a commercial source). The first asexual propagation of ‘Sunset’ was carried out in the summer of 2004 by rooting stem cuttings at the North Carolina State University, Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station, Mills River, North Carolina. It has been asexually reproduced repeatedly by vegetative cuttings in North Carolina over a 6-year period.

‘Sunset’ roots readily from softwood cuttings from plants treated with a basal dip of 2,500 ppm indole butyric acid (potassium salt) in water. ‘Sunset’ has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive asexual propagations.

The following are the most outstanding and distinguishing characteristics of this new cultivar when grown under normal horticultural practices at North Carolina State University, Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station, Mills River, North Carolina.

1. A compact, semi-dwarf shrub habit
2. Unique variegated foliage with green centers and multicolored margins ranging from and including ivory yellow, yellow, yellow-green, green, and red, depending on age of foliage and time of year
3. Compact, semi-dwarf habit with low, mounded plant shape
4. Height at maturity: 45 cm
5. Width at maturity: 65 cm
6. Deciduous leaves, 10 cm long x 4 cm wide
7. Flowers: Single, funnelform-campanulate flowers arranged in terminal and axillary pairs or clusters of three to four flowers
8. Flowering season: Early spring through late spring – May, in Mills River, NC, lasting 6 to 8 weeks on the plant; self-cleaning
9. Fragrance: Absent
10. Flower size: 3.5 cm long x 2.5 cm diameter
11. No significant disease or insect pests have been observed.
12. ‘Sunset’ is distinguished from other cultivars by its semi-dwarf size and unique colors of the variegated foliage. Specifically, ‘Sunset’ has an intermediate mature size that is smaller than ‘Kolsunn’, ‘Kolmagira’, and ‘Kolmas’, yet larger than ‘Verweig’. ‘Sunset’ also has unique colors expressed throughout the variegated foliage that include a combination of multicolored margins that range and include ivory yellow, yellow, yellow-green, green, and red depending on age and time of year.

‘Sunset’ will be exclusively licensed to Spring Meadow Nursery, Grand Haven, MI, and a U.S. patent application has been filed.

[Signature]  
Director, North Carolina Agricultural Research Service  
10/28/20  
Date