

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

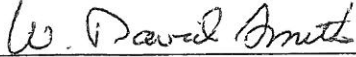
Notice of Release of 'Blue Chip' *Buddleja* (Butterfly Bush)

Buddleja NC2004-9, named 'Blue Chip', was derived from open pollination of NC2003-7 in October 2003. NC2003-7 was derived from open-pollinated seed collected in November 2002 from a family created by hybridization between *Buddleja* 'Honeycomb' (*Buddleja globosa* x *Buddleja davidii*) with a *Buddleja* interspecific hybrid (*Buddleja davidii* var. *nanhoensis* 'Nanho Purple' x *Buddleja lindleyana*). NC2003-7 was selected for its compact growth habit, but it showed limited flower production. Open pollinated progeny were grown out in summer 2004, and one seedling, subsequently named 'Blue Chip', demonstrated highly branched, very compact growth. In field trials conducted at the Sandhills Research Station at Jackson Springs, NC, 'Blue Chip' attained a height and spread of about 80 cm and 126 cm, respectively, after two growing seasons, a reduction of about 60% compared to standard cultivars. Foliage is very dense and full. Flower color is an attractive medium violet-blue (90B using the Royal Horticulture Society Color Chart). The inflorescences are very dense and shortened as compared to the typical elongated inflorescence of *Buddleja*. Flowers of 'Blue Chip' are very fragrant. Foliage of 'Blue Chip' is semi-evergreen, showing retention into winter similar to *Buddleja lindleyana*. The compact growth habit and dense foliage of 'Blue Chip' are highly desirable traits that will allow this cultivar to be used in a wide range of landscape situations.

'Blue Chip' produces small, distorted anthers, and shows no evidence of pollen production. Although 'Blue Chip' does show evidence of seed production in a field setting, it is considerably less than that of other *Buddleja* cultivars. 'Blue Chip' can be propagated easily from stem cuttings derived from actively growing stock plants.

'Blue Chip' cultural requirements include well-drained soil, full sun, and moderate moisture. No serious pest or disease problems have been observed except an occasional spider mite infestation during periods of hot, dry weather. Based on cold-hardiness observations down to minus 8 degrees Centigrade, the anticipated adaptation is USDA hardiness zones 5-9.

'Blue Chip' is exclusively licensed to Spring Meadow Nursery, Grand Haven, MI, and is protected under U.S. Plant Patent 19,991. 'Blue Chip' was initially approved for release and made available in commerce in May 2006.



Associate Dean and Director,
North Carolina Agricultural Research Service

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Date