

Buddleja 'Miss Ruby' Release Document

Buddleia NC2003-22 (subsequently named 'Miss Ruby' was derived from a 2002 cross between *Buddleia* 'White Ball' and 'Attraction'. 'White Ball' has a complex pedigree that is not fully documented, but based on phenotype, it has both *B. davidii* and *B. fallowiana* in its background. 'Attraction' was released by the University of Georgia in 2000, and was derived from open pollination of *Buddleia* 'Honeycomb' (*B. davidii* x *B. globosa*). 'Miss Ruby' was selected for its semi-compact growth habit, silver-grey foliage, and unique bright pink flower color, previously not reported in *Buddleia*. The flower color of 'Miss Ruby' is a true pink with little to no purple contamination (Royal Horticulture Society color chart rating = 71C (red-purple group). The standard pink cultivar in the trade, 'Pink Delight', has distinct purple contamination in the flower (color rating = 75B (purple group). Typically, commercially available *Buddleia* cultivars are very vigorous, with growth of 3-4 feet in one year not unusual. 'Miss Ruby' is less vigorous. The inflorescences are very dense. Flowers of 'Miss Ruby' are very fragrant, typical of *Buddleia davidii*. Foliage of 'Miss Ruby' is an attractive silver-grey. The semi-compact growth habit, silver grey foliage, and bright pink flower color of 'Miss Ruby' are highly desirable traits that will allow this selection to be used in a wide range of landscape situations.

In 2005, 'Miss Ruby' was tested in a replicated trial at the Sandhills Research Station at Jackson Springs, NC (Table 1), and in a non-replicated trial at the Horticultural Field Laboratory in Raleigh, NC. A summary of the characteristics of 'Miss Ruby' is shown on the attached sheet that presents data collected in support of the planned plant patent application. 'Miss Ruby' can be propagated easily from stem cuttings derived from actively growing stock plants.

Table 1. Average height and width of 'Miss Ruby' and check cultivars. Data taken October 11, 2005 from one-year-old plants grown at the Sandhills Research Station, Jackson Springs, NC . All plants were propagated from stem cuttings in fall, 2004, grown in 1 gallon pots overwinter in a greenhouse, and planted in the field April, 2005.

Selection or cultivar	Average height (cm) ^z	Average width (cm)
Honeycomb	52.0a	62.5
Ellen's Blue	40.3abc	54.3
White Profusion	43.0abc	61.5
Lochinch	41.6bcd	52.7
Attraction	40.0bcde	53.0
Pink Delight	37.0cde	52.0
NC2003-22 ('Miss Ruby')	32.0e	47.2
NC2004-9 (Blue Chip')	18.8f	38.6

^z Mean comparison by Duncan's Multiple Range Test, P = .05.



Figure 1. One-year-old plant of *Buddleia* 'Miss Ruby' showing dense growth, silver-grey foliage, and bright pink flower color.



Figure 2. Inflorescence of 'Miss Ruby' showing bright pink flower color.