

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

Notice of Release of 'Miss Molly' Buddleja (Butterfly Bush)

Buddleja NC2005-8, named 'Miss Molly', was derived from a summer 2004 hybridization of 'Attraction' x 'Miss Ruby' (patented NCSU cultivar tested as NC2003-22). Seed were germinated in January 2005 and 167 progeny were grown out in summer 2005 at the Sandhills Research Station, Jackson Springs, NC. One seedling, NC2005-8, demonstrated semi-compact growth, a semi-upright growth habit, dense and full foliage, intermediate vigor, and a unique deep fuchsia flower color. In 2007 through 2010, 'Miss Molly' was tested in a replicated trial at the Sandhills Research Station at Jackson Springs, NC. It was also tested in a non-replicated trial at the Horticultural Field Laboratory in Raleigh, NC. In the replicated Sandhills Research Station trial, it attained a height and spread of 132.3 and 112.9 cm, respectively, after two years of growth.

The unique and vivid flower color of 'Miss Molly' is the primary basis for release. Pink and red are elusive flower colors in *Buddleja*. 'Miss Molly' has the closest flower color to a true red to date in *Buddleja*, classified as red-purple RHS 61B using the Royal Horticulture Society Colour Chart, 2001 edition. The inflorescences are typical of *Buddleja*, and individual flowers are very fragrant. Foliage of 'Miss Molly' is deciduous. The intermediate vigor, dense foliage, and the unique deep fuchsia flower color of 'Miss Molly' are highly desirable traits that will allow this selection to be used in a wide range of landscape situations. 'Miss Molly' can be propagated easily from stem cuttings derived from actively growing stock plants.

'Miss Molly' 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.

'Miss Molly' will be exclusively licensed to Spring Meadow Nursery, Grand Haven, MI, and an application for U.S. patent will be filed.



Director, North Carolina Agricultural Research Service



Date