

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

Notice of Release of 'Purple Haze' *Buddleja* (Butterfly Bush)

*Buddleja* NC2005-29, named 'Purple Haze', was derived from a summer 2004 hybridization of 'Miss Ruby' (patented NCSU cultivar tested as NC2003-22) x ('Honeycomb' x ('Nanho Purple' x *B. lindleyana*)). Seed were germinated in January 2005 and 231 progeny were grown out in summer 2005 at the Sandhills Research Station, Jackson Springs, NC. One seedling, NC2005-29, demonstrated compact growth, a unique spreading habit with arching stems and flower panicles, attractive violet-purple flowers, and female sterility. In 2007 through 2010, 'Purple Haze' 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 only about 78.5 and 119.8 cm, respectively, after two years of growth, less than most check cultivars. Foliage was very dense and full. Typically, commercially available *Buddleja* cultivars are very vigorous, with growth of 1 to 1.5 m in one year not unusual.

Flower color is a beautiful medium violet-purple. The inflorescences are very long and individual flowers are considerably larger than those of typical cultivars of *Buddleja*, similar to *B. lindleyana*, a species in its pedigree. Inflorescences show a distinct pendant habit, a unique characteristic of this cultivar not present in any other existing commercial cultivars. Flowers of 'Purple Haze' are very fragrant, atypical of *Buddleja lindleyana* which lack fragrance, but typical of *Buddleja davidii*. Foliage of 'Purple Haze' is deciduous. The compact growth habit, dense foliage, spreading growth, female sterility, and unique arching inflorescences of 'Purple Haze' are highly desirable traits that will allow this selection to be used in a wide range of landscape situations. Cultural requirements for 'Purple Haze' are well-drained soil, full sun, and moderate moisture. 'Purple Haze' has exhibited no serious pest or disease problems known to the inventors, except for occasional spider mite infestation during periods of hot, dry weather.

'Purple Haze' shows virtually no evidence of seed production in a field setting. This is a very important character, as *Buddleja* is a potentially invasive plant. No visible seed pods have been observed on 'Purple Haze' in five years of field observation. 'Purple Haze' can be propagated easily from stem cuttings derived from actively growing stock plants.

'Purple Haze' will be exclusively licensed to Spring Meadow Nursery, Grand Haven, MI, and the patent application for the cultivar has been filed.



Director, North Carolina Agricultural Research Service



Date