Interesting specimens are lurking within the nursery...

NOW it feels like Spring! Mom Nature took her sweet time getting here, but at least she made it! And upon her arrival, she has bestowed upon us some interesting material that just may get your attention.

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The first specimen I'd like to point out is the newest addition to the hydrangea line: Little Quick Fire™! The Quick Fire™ Hydrangea is one of my personal favorites, and thanks to the wonderful horticultural gene splicing gurus out there, they've managed to produce a dwarf version. Grows to a height of 4', with about a 30" spread. This is an easier mature size to manage as compared to it's big brother. Think of it as the pink flowering version of the Little Lime™ Hydrangea.

I have to mention the Prunus 'Vesuvius'. Yes, it is a plum tree, but a spectacular one! This species produces a LOT of light carnation pink flowers, accented with dark purple to near black foliage. Grows to a height of 20'-ish, with a spread of around 15'. It does need full sun, so be sure to keep it watered, especially in the dry days of summer. 'Vesuvius' flowering plum will make an incredible statement in one's landscape, while not being completely overpowering.

photo credit: www.oregonstate.edu

This last plant has been stocked for the past few years, but many are not aware of its existence: Cornus Kousa Samaritan®. Sounds pretty cool, eh? Well, I gotta tell ya: IT IS! This is a variegated, tree form Kousa. The foliage will grab everyone's attention immediately. It does produce the much loved Kousa flower, but the foliage will hide them significantly. Samaritan® is a mid-sized ornamental tree, growing 15-20' with about a 15' spread. It prefers partial shade, but will tolerate full sun, so long as the soil has adequate moisture.

Dave Reutter

Christensen's Plant Center
6282 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth, Michigan 48170
(734) 454-1400 voice
(734) 454-1414 fax