‘September Sun’: An Autumn-Blooming Seaside Alder

APPLICATION AREAS
Ornamental Landscape Shrub; Environmental Restoration

ABSTRACT
Seaside alder (Alnus maritima) is rare native species in North America. **ISU researchers have developed the first cultivar of seaside alder, 'September Sun', that is suitable for use as a nursery crop.** This rapid growing and easy to propagate cultivar is an ornamentally superior genotype and an appealing autumn-blooming landscape shrub. In addition, this shrub associates with nitrogen-fixing bacteria—unlike almost all other shrub species—which allows the plants to grow on very poor soils and to improve soil quality for other plants. ‘September Sun’ is also highly tolerant of flooded soils, and helps reduce soil erosion along streams and other riparian areas, making it ideal for landscape restoration projects involving erosion control and wetland remediation.

BENEFITS
‘September Sun’ is:

- Fast growing and symmetrical, with attractive foliage and better autumn color than other alders
- Suitable for use in USDA hardiness zones 4a through 8b
- Able to thrive in wet soil
- More drought resistant than other North American alders
- Thrives in nitrogen-poor soil
- Easy to propagate
- Blooms mid-August through late September

INVENTOR(S)
Drs. William R. Graves (Horticulture) and James A. Schrader (Horticulture)

REFERENCE(S)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STATUS (September-2007)

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