


richest collections of new introductions in North America at the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden (greatly enhanced by the late Peter Wharton) and the JC Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh. Grimshaw also notes the "tremendous number of interesting new introductions dotted around the Portland, Oregon, 'estate' of Sean Hogan," owner of Cistus Nursery. His visits included the Arnold Arboretum (Boston), the U.S. National Arboretum (Washington, D.C.), the Washington Park Arboretum (Seattle) and many private gardens in the U.S. and the U.K.

Ross Bayton, co-author, was "desk jockey" on the project, working in a basement office near one of the numerous herbaria at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He had the tedious task of writing full botanical descriptions of each species based on herbarium specimens and living trees at Kew. He also oversaw development of line drawings by botanical artist Hazel Wilks. Bayton, a specialist in palm taxonomy and currently a succulent-collection curator, made use of Kew's taxonomic experts, consulting with them on specialized terminology of various tree families. Bayton's assignment might have seemed boring, but he says, "Studying and describing these trees took me on a journey around the world and greatly expanded my horticultural horizons."

A SAMPLING

The two botanists worked initially on the oaks (*Quercus*), which is the most abundantly described genus in *New Trees*, consisting of a daunting 95 new species, many from the mountains of Mexico. One of the significant Mexican introductions is *Q. rysophylla*, the loquat-leaf oak. Grimshaw especially admired this member of the red oak group, with its bold, leathery foliage: "If only one 'new tree' were to be grown, this should perhaps be it."

The book attends to many maples (44 species), eucalyptus (55), magnolia (39) and pine (51). Included is the well-known American loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), which had somehow slipped by without mention in the standard tree reference, W. J. Bean's *Trees and Hardy Shrubs in the British Isles* (John Murray, 1989), on which *New Trees* is generally based in style and format. The authors also reach back to another tree overlooked by Bean, the Japanese crape myrtle, *Lagerstroemia fauriei*, whose seed were collected in 1957 by the late John Creech of the U.S. National Arboretum. Grimshaw and Bayton have also provided background information and description on *Wollemia nobilis*, the Araucaria relative discovered in 1994 near Sydney, Australia. *Wollemia* is now being grown in gardens in the U.S. as far north as Washington, D. C.

Gardeners will find much useful information on many unfamiliar species in the book. The botanical descriptions and in-depth horticultural narratives help determine the conditions under which a species can be expected to grow, bringing together a large amount of recent information for the first time. The book's admirable 40-page introduction could easily stand alone with its astute overview of how these new trees have been collected, cultivated and distributed. 

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HEAVY READING



John Grimshaw, a gardening botanist, and Ross Bayton, a plant taxonomist, both of the United Kingdom, undertook the massive four-year project of writing what resulted in this nearly 1,000-page reference on trees. *New Trees: Recent Introductions to Cultivation* will be available in the U.S. and Canada beginning January 15, 2010. Weighing almost six pounds, if ordering online you may wish to find a site that offers free shipping.



This page: The slender, pendulous needles of *Pinus bhutanica* shimmer in the sunlight. It produces large cones and has a moderately open crown. In its native habitat in China, Bhutan and India, it grows to 50 feet tall.

Opposite: This *Lagerstroemia fauriei* 'Townhouse' at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum was grown from a seedling from plants of the first introduction of the species by John Creech of the U.S. National Arboretum. It is multi-stemmed with handsome mottled bark that is cinnamon-red and white—among the finest of patterned barks.

During the last decades of the 20th century, a new wave of plant hunting brought numerous plants into Western cultivation. Taking advantage of opportunities to collect in locations denied them for a generation, nurserymen and botanists introduced a profusion of “new” shrubs and trees. Many were from China and the Sino-Himalayan region and therefore easily adaptable to temperate areas in North America and Europe. Several years ago, the International Dendrology Society (dendrology.org), which promotes the worldwide study of trees and woody plants, determined that there were no references describing newly introduced tree taxa from the forests of Asia, Australia and Mexico. Resolving to remedy the deficiency, the society launched a project to describe trees that have come into cultivation during the last four decades. John Grimshaw, a gardening botanist, and Ross Bayton, a plant taxonomist, both of the United Kingdom, undertook the massive four-year project. The result, *New Trees: Recent Introductions to Cultivation* (Kew Publishing, 2009), is a nearly 1,000-page book weighing six pounds.

When Grimshaw signed on in 2004, he had no idea how many new trees would be evaluated, or that he and Bayton eventually would write accounts of 180 genera and 850 species. The project took Grimshaw on numerous trips through the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and continental Europe to see living specimens and judge their adaptability to gardens. From these trips, he wrote easy-flowing narratives on how the trees came to be introduced, coupled with his personal observations on their horticultural merits. Grimshaw says, “What made it possible was the willing collaboration of hundreds of people ’round the world, plus the convenience of e-mail. I had a huge correspondence.”

Grimshaw estimates that he saw 90 percent of the species covered in *New Trees* somewhere on his travels. Some were represented in cultivation only by a few saplings and others by one or two specimens; still others were readily available from wide distribution by the nursery industry. He found the