CEANOTHUS INTRODUCTIONS OF THE SARATOGA HORTICULTURAL FOUNDATION SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA

Evergreen plants varying in size from creeping shrubs to small trees. Sometimes called wild lilac. Well drained soil is essential. Must be "pinched back" frequently while young to attain well-shaped plant.

Ceanothus exaltatus 'Emily Brown'. Low, spreading shrub 2-3' high and 8-12' wide. Rigid branches; thick, dark green spiny-toothed leaves; violet-blue flowers borne in small clusters along gracefully arched stems. Trailing branches take root.

Ceanothus griseus 'Louis Edmunds'. Dense shrub 4-6' tall and 8-21' wide. Dark green, glossy leaves; sea-blue flowers produced in April and May in abundant, compact, cylindrical clusters. Prefers sun.

Ceanothus griseus horzontalis 'Hurricane Point'. Coarse, rapid growing plant when compared with the following variety. Parent plant on Hurricane Point, Monterey County, is 36' wide and 18" tall. Glossy roundish leaves; light blue flowers sparsely produced in cylindrical clusters. Recommended where rapid growth is advantageous. Prefers coastal climate.

Ceanothus griseus horizontalis 'Yankee Point'. Form of Carmel creeper from Yankee Point, Monterey County. Low, compact, spreading shrub 2-3' high and 8' wide. Dark green, shiny leaves; flax-blue flowers produced in April and May in profuse cylindrical clusters.

Ceanothus x 'Joyce Coulter'. Low, spreading shrub about 12' wide. Probable hybrid of C. papillosus. Dark green leaves, longer than wide, with glandular roughened margins; dark blue flowers borne in profusion in 3" to 5" clusters in March, and intermittently throughout the spring and summer.

Ceanothus x 'Julia Phelps'. Large shrub 6-8' tall and 8-10' wide. Hybrid between C. papillosus var. roweanus and C. impressus. Small furrowed leaves; flowers of deep cobalt blue, lavishly produced in April and May in small inch-long heads. Prefers sun.

Ceanothus x 'Ray Hartman'. Large shrub 10-15' tall and 12-15' wide. Resembles C. arboreus, and is probable hybrid between C. arboreus and C. griseus. Large, dark green leaves; bluebird blue flowers borne in March and April in abundant 3" to 5" clusters. Prefers sun.

"QUICK I.D. HINTS ON CEANOTHUS "

(Including likely heat/drought tolerance)

There are so many Ceanothus cultivars available in the nursery trade that it has become difficult for most nurserymen, landscape architects, and contractors to keep track of the difference between them, to say nothing of the interested gardening public. However, one can estimate the mature characteristics and physiological needs of the many cultivars if one learns the idiosyncrasies of the parents which comprise their parentage. Since most contemporary Ceanothus cultivars have, at best, ill-defined parentage, we must accept these estimates as just that --- rough estimates of predicted performance.

The rules of this horticultural game are:

(1) Examine the foliage, flower clusters, and other morphological characteristics of the cultivar in question. Some of the questions to ask are:

> Is the plant's apparent habit vertical, arching, or prostrate?
>
> Is the foliage large, entire and glossy, or smaller and round, with toothed margins?
>
> Is the flower cluster (if available) composed of densely-packed florets in a small umbel, or scattered florets in a longer raceme? Spent flower clusters tell this story as well as fresh ones.

(2) Begin matching these characteristics with those of the Ceanothus species whose hybrids most commonly create horticulturally interesting progeny.

For an example of conclusions one might draw from this game, we might use the cultivar Ceanothus x 'Julia Phelps' (refer to chart).

Foliage - small, without spines, slightly revolute edges with a dominant mid-vein (like C. impressus). With papilla (warty glands) on both surfaces (like C. papillosus).

Flower - a dense panicle (like C. impressus) of intense cobalt-blue (like C. papillosus).

Plant Habit - twiggy and rounded in structure; densely clothed with leaves (like C. impressus).

Conclusions:

Progeny of this combination of parents (such as Ceanothus x 'Julia Phelps') will likely be moderately dry-air-heat tolerant, as are both parents.

They should be heavy blooming in early spring, at an early age.

They could be expected to be twiggy in habit and rounded in shape, probably reaching 1½-2⅓ meters (4-8 feet) tall and 2-3-1/3 meters (6-10 feet) broad.

Another example might be:

CEANOTHUS X 'RAY HARTMAN'

Foliage - Broad, glossy, with three linear veins (like C. griseus), with distinct dentations on the leaf edges and a greyish tomentum beneath (like C. arboreus and C. griseus).

Flower - An open, compound panicle (like C. arboreus) of blue-bird blue (like some C. arboreus).

Plant Habit - Upright, with dominantly vertical habit. Not densely clothed with leaves (like C. arboreus).

Conclusions:

Progeny of this combination of parents (like C. x 'Ray Hartman') will be moderately dry-air-heat tolerant, as are both parents. They should have medium-blue to dark-blue flowers, and have a comparatively open, fast growth habit.

In the case of Ceanothus griseus 'Yankee Point', since its parentage is a form from directly on the coast, one cannot expect it to be long-lived in areas with hot, dry air. One of the clues is its prostrate habit, which indicates a coastal form.

Or, the new cultivar from Santa Ana Botanic Garden called 'Frosty Blue'. Its small, roundish, glossy foliage suggests some C. impressus parentage, as does its shrubby, upright habit and tightly-packed flower clusters. From this I would assume that it will exhibit moderate tolerance to inland conditions, but not appreciate sprinkler watering.

This formula, if you wish to so consider it, is of value only as the first crude indication of the expected performance of a Ceanothus cultivar with which you may not be familiar and, obviously, ignores many exceptions to its rule.

Species	Typical Native Site, Coastal or Inland	Habit: Vertical? Arching? Prostrate?	Leaf Character	Flower Structure	Flower Color	Garden Tolerant? Tolerant to Heat, Dry Air
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus	Santa Cruz Mtns.	Vertical w/green trunks	Fairly large glossy leaves, prominently 3-linear veined	Loose compound racemes	Medium blue	Moderately heat-tolerant; susceptible to rhizoctonia; objects to sprinklers
C. thyrsiflorus prostratus	Coastal Santa Cruz Mtns.	Arching to prostrate	Fairly large glossy leaves	Loose compound racemes	Medium blue	Not heat-tolerant; other comments as above
C. arboreus	Catalina Islands	Upright, coarse w/ green trunks	Large, 3-veined grayish beneath	Loose, large compound panicle	Pale blue	Moderately heat-tolerant; short lived with sprinklers
C. griseus	Monterey, Santa Cruz Mtns.	Arching to vertical	Fairly large glossy leaves 3-linear veined	Dense panicle	Dark blue	Moderately heat-tolerant; moderately tolerant of sprinkler watering
C. g. horizontalis	Coastal	Prostrate	Fairly large glossy leaves	Dense panicle	Dark blue	Not heat-tolerant; short lived with sprinkler watering
C. impressus Santa Barbara C.	Santa Barbara Mtns.	Rounded, twiggy	Small, smooth glossy dominant mid-vein	Dense panicle	Light blue	Moderately heat-tolerant
C. papillosus Warty-leaved Ceanothus	Santa Cruz Mtns.	Vertical, arching, twiggy	Ditto with many glands on both leaf surfaces dominant mid-vein	Dense umbel	Dark blue	Moderately
C. gloriosus	Coastal	Prostrate	Small, spiny-edged, hard	Dense	Medium to dark blue	Not heat-drought tolerant; poor drainage

* Only those species which have been "parents" to th ost popular Ceanothus selections available today are shown.

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Ceanothus 'Dark Star'

Dense shrub to 5' tall and 10' wide. Masses of cobalt blue flowers cover bush in spring. It is a seedling from Ceanothus impressus developed by Ken Taylor in Aromas. More tolerant of many soil types than Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps', though it too prefers well-drained soil. Full sun best, will become drought tolerant once established.

Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps'

Extremely floriferous dark indigo blue flowers make this 6' tall by 8' wide shrub one of our best old time standards. Very dense branching, can be pruned lightly to form hedge, or it may be pruned to open up and display intricate branch structure. Needs excellent drainage and full sun. Drought tolerant once established.

Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'

Rapidly attains ten to twenty feet in height and width. The fresh green shiny foliage is the perfect foliage for large and pleasing lavender blue clusters of flowers that bloom in mid-spring. 'Ray Hartman' is adaptable to many situations. It is beautiful used as a background shrub. Responding well to pruning, it may be trained as a small tree.

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Ceanothus gloriosus 'Anchor Bay'

The Point Reyes ceanothus (Ceanothus gloriosus) is a rapidly growing, decumbent and spreading, ground covering shrub from the coastal regions of northern California. It is distributed sporadically in local populations from Marin to Mendocino County. It is a low growing, luxuriant looking plant which is capable of covering considerable areas. In the wild a single plant may spread for as much as eighteen feet in diameter and where it is exposed may hardly exceed a foot in height.

The cultivar 'Anchor Bay' is a more compact form of this ceanothus but it, nevertheless, still has a capacity to cover a significant amount of space. Ultimately it may cover to fourteen or fifteen feet and indeed a newly established plant may extend to as much as five feet by the end of its first two growing seasons. A number of selections of the species have been made but this is one of the few to have warranted a name. It is a plant with a densely growing habit which rarely exceeds two feet in height and which maintains a light and lustrous, bright green colour throughout the year.

This plant was selected from a group of three hundred or so seedlings, growing in the Arboretum at UC Davis, for its larger leaves and dense growing habit. These had been grown from seed collected, in 1970 by Roman Gankin and Dr. Andrew Leiser, along the coast between Gualala and Anchor Bay in southern Mendocino County. Cuttings of this selection were brought to the Foundation in 1973 by the then Director - Richard Hildreth, and it was first introduced in 1976.

The habit of the plant is characterised by the dense array of arching branches, which carry the thick glossy leaves on closely spaced internodes, so producing a rigid and virtually impenetrable mass. The leaves are large for the species being an inch or more long and two thirds of an inch wide, they are leathery in texture, holly like in shape and carry six pairs of short spines. The colour is deepish green but not more than a medium dark hue, the underside is a slightly paler colour.

Flower production is not profuse largely because of the small size of the panicles, typically each panicle is carried on a short peduncle. The flowering season is from March through April. The colour is a medium to dark blue, which is darker than normal but is still not anything

special. The value of this selection is in its dense habit and lustrous foliage.

'Anchor Bay ' is a selection of a coastal species and as such is less tolerant of heat and arid conditions than the inland types, it is thus not really suited to conditions in the Central or the Sacramento Valleys. It is a plant which requires a fairly regular water supply, even in conventional situations where it is suited to cultivation.

The hardiness of some coastal ceanothuses is suspect under anything more than normal winter conditions but this selection has proved itself capable of tolerating cold temperatures, on a one-off basis, to as low as 10 F.

This plant is reasonably tolerant of a variety of soil conditions provided that drainage is adequate. It is unlikely to thrive in an unirrigated situation unless it is in a coastal type environment.

Ground cover; evergreen; flowering; beeplant.

Ceanothus x 'Frosty Blue'

This new ceanothus cultivar was selected as a chance seedling in 1964 by Percy Everett of Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

This fast growing cultivar will easily reach 10' tall by 15' across, with full foliage to the ground.

The clear, dark blue 3" flower clusters take on a frosted look as they fade; hence the name 'Frosty Blue'.

Abundant terminal flowers are seen from April through May.

The small C. impressus-like foliage forms a dense cover for the compact growth habit.

This, combined with the fast growth rate and excellent garden tolerance, make an exciting addition to the native plant pallet.

An appropriate use for this plant would be as a background screen for shorter natives or exotics, or as a large specimen shrub in a freeway planting.

'Frosty Blue' is easily maintained in the garden, even with some watering.

Ceanothus Griseus 'Louis Edmunds'

Ceanothus griseus is native to the coastal regions of California from Mendocino County to Santa Barbara County. In its natural range, this attractive shrub is most abundant on the Monterey Peninsula where it grows among Monterey pines, Pinus radiata, and on open slopes. Here its aggressiveness has helped to soften many unsightly scars on the landscape caused by the inroads of bulldozers. Throughout the native range of this ceanothus, there is wide variation among the individual plants in height, breadth, size of leaves, texture of leaves, size of inflorescences, and intensity of color in the flowers.

Some twenty years ago, a colony of Ceanothus griseus seedlings was planted at one of the entrances to Tilden Regional Park, near Oakland, California. The source of the seeds of these plants is not known. In 1942, Louis L. Edmunds of the Native Plant Nursery in Danville was attracted by an outstanding variant in this colony having glossy foliage and deep blue flowers borne in profusion. He propagated this individual by cuttings and planted some of the progeny in his garden at Danville. For horticultural posterity, the timing proved to be fortunate because the original plant was destroyed shortly thereafter. Since about 1945, Mr. Edmunds has propagated and distributed stock from his garden plants, and his selection has proved to be popular wherever it has been grown.

As a member of the Board of Councillors of the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation since its establishment, Mr. Edmunds has made many valued gifts of seeds, cuttings, and plants to the organization. Among these gifts, he presented stock of his new

Ceanothus griseus clone in 1952. At Saratoga, this has been propagated in quantity and, since 1955, has been widely distributed under the name Ceanothus griseus 'Louis Edmunds'. Plants are now available in many central California nurseries.

When established in a garden, the Edmund's ceanothus requires a minimum of care. In selecting a planting site, good drainage and full sun are essential. Because the plants are vegetatively propagated, flowers are borne in the first year. In this connection, one of the features of these plants is the manner in which they bloom in the nursery in gallon containers. As with most varieties of ceanothus, consistent light pruning and shaping are desirable during the first few years.

To the delight of Mr. Edmund's many admirers, Ceanothus griseus 'Louis Edmunds' was granted an Award of Merit in 1956 by the California Horticultural Society.

Ceanothus griseus 'Louis Edmunds' is a dense, evergreen shrub about six feet high and ten feet wide. The green branchlets are distinctly angled. Leaves alternate; blades broadly ovate to oblong ovate, obtuse to acute at apex, one inch to two inches (or rarely three inches) long, one-half to one inch (or rarely two inches) wide, dark green and glabrous above, light grayish green to almost green beneath, prominently three-veined from the base, margins slightly revolute and wavy. Flowers sea-blue[1] in dense compound clusters, two to three and one-half inches long; flower bud scales

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[1]HORTICULTURAL COLOUR CHART, Royal Horticultural Society, Plate 04 Vol 2, March 1942

prominent, narrowly triangular with attenuate apex, grayish green to faintly purple. Flowering period, March and April. Fruit subglobose, about one-eighth of an inch broad, three-lobed at summit. In some respects, this plant shows characteristics of C. thyrsiflorus.

The purpose of these notes is to establish the above ceanothus as a named cultivar and, in so doing, to prepare for its official registration in accordance with the requirements of the International Horticultural Congress. This initial step in the procedure has been withheld until the present time because it seemed fitting to publish the account in the Louis Edmund's dedicatory issue of the JOURNAL.

Maunsell Van Rensselaer

Ceanothus griseus var. *horizontalis* 'Yankee Point'

Maunsell Van Rensselaer, Director of the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, selected four superior individual plants of *Ceanothus griseus* on Yankee Point at the Carmel Highlands in Monterey County.

In 1954 cuttings were made from these four plants, and grown on. These progeny were observed and evaluated during the next few years in Saratoga, and the cultivar now named 'Yankee Point' was selected in 1956 as the best of these four. This cultivar maintained the deepest blue flowers, the heaviest bloom and the lowest habit of growth of those evaluated.

The foliage of the 'Yankee Point' cultivar under garden conditions is 11/2-2" long and 1-1/4" wide, with a dark glossy-green upper surface and a slightly glaucous underside. The flowers are "Blue Bird Blue", borne in panicles about 2" long in great profusion in March and April.

When planted alone, individual plants will reach 3' in height and spread to 10', with arching branches touching the ground on the perimeter of the dense shrub. This cultivar is also very effective when used as a hedge.

Its beauty is attested to by the fact that it is one of the most widely planted Ceanothus in California today.

Typical of most California native shrubs, this plant should be lightly pruned during its first few years.

Barrie Coate
December 1963

CEANOTHUS x 'JOYCE COULTER'

In 1956, a singular form of ceanothus was noted by John E. Coulter in a block of ceanothus plants in his nursery in San Carlos, California. Previous to this observation, the origin of the unusual plant is obscure. It appears to have certain of the morphological characteristics of both Ceanothus papillosus and C. griseus.

In order to observe more closely this form under normal conditions of cultivation, Mr. Coulter planted it in his garden at 957 Hillcrest Drive, Redwood City, California.

By 1961, the plant was approximately 12 feet across, but not over 10 inches high. At that time it had not been pruned, except for the removal of a few cuttings.

Since the plant was obviously one of considerable merit, cuttings were given to the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation by Mr. Coulter in January 1961 in order to get the new variety into channels of production. After a six-year period of observation of the Coulter plant, opinion was unanimous that it was distinctive and worthy of introduction.

In 1962, the clone was named for Johns Coulter's popular wife, Joyce, and formally introduced into nursery channels under the name Ceanothus x 'Joyce Coulter'.

The parent plant in the Coulter garden is now (September 1965) 25 feet across, and is still in a vigorous condition. The habit of growth of this plant and subsequent plantings is low, rather dense, and spreading. In open plantings in sunny positions, with plants set six feet apart, the ground is covered in two years. Occasional vigorous, vertical shoots arise from the center of each plant but, if these are lightly pruned back, the overall height can be restricted to 24-30 inches.

The gentian blue flowers are produced in abundant dense clusters from February to June, and then spasmodically throughout the summer. The flower clusters are 2" to 3" long, with peduncles 1" to 1-3/4" long.

The young branchlets are hairy and somewhat angular. The leaves are alternate and evergreen; the blades oblong to elliptical, mostly truncate at the apex and rounded at the base, 3/4" to 1-1/2" long, 1/4" to 3/4" wide, prominently veined; the upper surface dark

green, glossy, glabrous; the lower surface pale, hirsute along the veins, the margins glandular and strongly revolute; petioles 1/4" to 3/4" long.

Maunsell Van Rensselaer
Brian Gage

Extracted from Journal of
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Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps'

Early in April 1951 our attention was called to a profuse blooming ceanothus with deep blue flowers growing in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Phelps in Morgan Hill. According to Mr. Phelps, who is the propagator of Saratoga Experimental Gardens, the plant appeared as a distinct variant in a flat of seedlings of Ceanothus roweanus propagated in 1945 by Thomas Marken, then Acting Manager of the Morgan Hill propagating grounds of Leonard Coates Nurseries. The seeds had previously been purchased from Lester Rowntree. In the summer of 1945 the seedlings from the flat were potted, and in April 1946 were transferred to gallon cans. Among the seedlings there appeared to be a fairly constant uniformity in character with the exception of the one plant, which was markedly distinct in its foliage and habit. Because of its distinctive character, the odd seedling was given to Mr. Phelps, who planted it in his garden in the spring of 1947. Flowering lightly the following spring, the shrub has flourished and bloomed with increasing vigor each year since.

Now that it has reached maturity, the shrub is compact in habit and nearly eight feet tall and half again as broad. It is densely branched from the base with somewhat arching branches and rigid branchlets clothed with spreading hairs. Little pruning has been done at the base, so that most of the lower branches almost touch the ground. The bark is smooth and grayish green. The evergreen leaves, which are usually not more than 1/4 inch in width and 1/2 inch in length, are crowded, alternate, and fascicled, with irregularly papillate-denticulate margins; the upper surface of the

leaf is glabrous and the lower, grayish tomentose. The nearly globose, densely flowered inflorescences about one inch in length are clustered at the ends of the branchlets in great abundance.

As determined by the Art Department of San Jose State College, the flowers are of a "rather deep cobalt blue with a slight touch of red."

The leaves of this ceanothus appear to be intermediate in character between C. roweanus and C.impressus which suggests the probability of hybrid between these two. Similar hybrids have been noted before among seedlings of C. roweanus grown from garden-gathered seed. Other hybrids, however, have been much smaller in habit and not so compact.

Since this plant has such splendid possibilities as a garden ornamental, it was decided in April to put it into production, and later to introduce it to the gardening public. Although April is not a good month for propagating ceanothus, cuttings were first taken at that time when the shrub was in full bloom. A goodly percentage of these were successfully rooted and the resulting vigorous plants are now (November 15, 1951) about twelve inches tall and as broad. It has been appropriately dedicated to Mrs. Dudley Phelps, and henceforth will be known as Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps'.

Maunsell Van Rensselaer

A NEW *CEANOTHUS* CULTIVAR: 'OLWLSWOOD BLUE'

Twenty-five years ago Mr. Malcolm G. Smith collected some seed from a Ceanothus shrub growing in a garden in Oakland. Only three seedlings were germinated from this lot and later transplanted to his garden in Larkspur, Marin County. Ultimately, one of these plants proved to be outstanding in flower and growth habit. A cutting-grown specimen was donated to the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation by Mr. Smith in March of 1972 for further evaluation, production, and introduction to the nursery/landscape trade as the cultivar 'Owlswood Blue'.

Ceanothus x 'Owlswood Blue' is a hybrid, according to Mr. Smith, involving *C. arboreus* and some other Ceanothus. Shrubs of various species were growing adjacently in the Oakland Garden. It may well be that *C. griseus* was also involved in the cross, since the leaves of 'Owlswood Blue' have many characteristics of this species. Its broad spreading habit is also reminiscent of *C. griseus*. Of the other two sibling seedlings growing in Mr. Smith's Larkspur garden, one closely resembles *C. arboreus* and is about 15 feet tall.

In March of 1972 the original plant of 'Owlswood Blue' was about 25 years old, with a height of nine feet and a spread of about twenty feet, according to Mr. Smith. Two-year old plants in the test plots at the Foundation were 4 feet tall by 9 feet broad.

Young inflorescences of 'Owlswood Blue' lack the pinkish floral bud-scales and bracts so prominent in *Ceanothus* x 'Ray Hartman'. Thus the more intense blue of the flowers of 'Owlswood Blue' is not diluted by a second color. When fully expanded, the

terminal compound floral clusters measure 3-9 inches long by 2 1/2 inches wide. Blooming occurs in February and March, with occasional scattered flowers in late summer.

The stems are stiff, with the younger growth decidedly green and ridged in the manner of C. cyaneus. The foliage is thick--more so than 'Ray Hartman'--with three distinct veins from the leaf base. Elliptic to oblanceolate in outline, the leaves are 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches long to 1-3/4" wide. Dark, somewhat glossy green above, the lower leaf surface is lighter green.

Propagation has been fairly easy by softwood cuttings taken in February and March, treated with Hormodin #2 or a combination of this hormone and Rootone 10. Best results were obtained when tip or second cuttings were stuck the same day as taken, placed over bottom heat in a greenhouse without automatic mist. Occasional hand-misting each day, depending on weather conditions, kept the cuttings in good condition while rooting.

'Owlswood Blue' is a strong grower in the nursery, with little tendency for losses from disease organisms. Periodic pinching of young plants will result in more shapely specimens.

Planted in full sun in a well-drained soil, 'Owlswood Blue' will develop into a shrub suitable for low screen or border plantings, bank cover, an informal hedge, or as a featured specimen in a water-conserving garden.

We believe the ultimate shape of the plant will be much broader than tall, as indicated by the dimensions of the parent plant and young specimens at the Foundation. Thus ' Owlswood

Blue' may be very useful as a taller growing (perhaps 6-9 feet) broad spreading cover for expansive ground or bank areas.

W. Richard Hildreth
January 18, 1977

Ceanothus x 'Ray Hartman'

Ceanothus x 'Ray Hartman' appears to be a garden hybrid between C. arboreus and C. griseus. In over-all dimensions, it has the characteristics of C. arboreus, the largest species of the genus Ceanothus.

The potentialities of this clone were first brought to the attention of the Foundation in 1951 by Professor Howard E. McMinn who had made a test planting at his summer home at Aptos in addition to the plantings at Mills College. During the spring of 1951, Mr. Farwell kindly gave several plants to the Foundation for testing and evaluation. After watching the performance of these several plantations for a number of years, ceanothus specialists have agreed that this promising clone is worthy of registration and wider distribution. Since the Oak Knoll Nursery is no longer in existence, the Foundation has undertaken the registration of this cultivar with the approval of Mr. Farwell and Leonard Coates Nurseries.

In the registration procedure, duplication in usage of elements of the original cultivar name has necessitated a change. During discussions with Mr. Farwell and Professor McMinn regarding a suitable substitute name, it was decided that it would be fitting and appropriate to dedicate this clone to Ray D. Hartman, first, because of his lifetime interest in native plants, and, secondly, because the seedling originated in his nursery.

The size of Ceanothus x 'Ray Hartman', its longevity, handsome foliage and striking blue flowers in large, profuse clusters recommend it as a substitute for the variable, seedling-grown C. arboreus. In most areas where now grown, it seems to prefer full sun, though in some situations it does well in partial or filtered shade. Consistent light pruning for the first few years is desirable.

Ceanothus x 'Ray Hartman' is a large shrub or small tree 10 to 15 feet or more tall and 12 to 15 feet in crown diameter. The greenish branchlets are soft, pubescent and somewhat angled. Leaves are alternate, evergreen; the blades broadly ovate to broadly elliptical, one and one-quarter to three inches long, five-eighths of an inch to one and three-quarters inches wide, three-veined from the base, dark green and glabrous above, grayish and somewhat silky pubescent beneath with prominent veins, margins revolute and somewhat wavy between the teeth. Flowers are bluebird blue[1] in open, compound clusters three to five and one-half inches long; bud scales prominent, gray-lavender with fine silky hairs. Flowering period is from March to May and sometimes again in late summer. The fruit is brownish-black, one-eighth of an inch to three-sixteenths of an inch broad, and three-lobed at summit.

Maunsell Van Rensselaer

Extracted from Journal of
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[1] Horticultural Colour Chart, Royal Horticultural Society, Plate 04 Vol. 2, March 1942.