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'Georgia Petite' and 'Georgia Charm' *Raphiolepis*¹

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Origin

'Georgia Petite' and 'Georgia Charm', *Raphiolepis* x *delacourii* Andre, were derived from a seedling population of a cross of Plant Introduction selection (PI 277653) and *R. umbellata* 'Ovata'. The PI parent is currently available in the trade as 'Eskimo' (see accompanying cultivar release). The original cross was made at the Georgia Station in 1983 after cultivar evaluations indicated that these two parents were superior in horticultural characters, cold hardiness, and *Entomosporium* leafspot resistance (1). These two cultivars were named and approved for release under plant patent license protection by the University of Georgia College of Agriculture Plant Cultivar and Germplasm Release Committee, University of Georgia Research Foundation, and the Georgia Seed Development Commission.

Description

Mature plants of 'Georgia Petite' (PPAF) measure 0.8 m (2.5 ft) × 1 m (3 ft) in width. Branching is compact, attributing to the low stature of the plant. Leaves are dark green with light green undersides and serrate margins, obovate and rounded at the apex, measuring 6 cm (2.3 in) × 4 cm (1.6 in). Blooms appear for two to three weeks in mid to late April and are light pink (RHS 56D) at opening, fading to white at maturity (4). Fruits are inconspicuous due to the compact habit of leaf and stem arrangement.

'Georgia Charm' (PPAF) is taller, growing to 1.1 m (4 ft) with similar spread. Leaves are lustrous dark green with light green undersides, elliptic-obovate in shape, measure 5 cm (2 in) × 2.3 cm (0.8 in), and margins are lightly serrated on the distal half of the leaf. Blooms, appearing in mid-April, are white with maroon stamens. Bluish-black fruits

(RHS 103A) are 1.0 cm (0.4 in) in diameter and persist from late summer into winter.

Adaptation

Like other *raphiolepis*, 'Georgia Petite' and 'Georgia Charm' are popular landscape plants for south Atlantic, Gulf Coast, and West Coast regions. Their tolerance to salt spray, drought and sandy soils suit them to low maintenance landscapes in climatic zones 7b to 10 (2). Their ability to withstand -10C (5F) in laboratory freeze tests and near immunity to leafspot (1, 3) make these evergreen shrubs good companion plants for designer's plant palettes in developing environmental landscapes located in USDA climatic zones 7b-10 (2).

Propagation

Propagation has been successful (75 to 90 percent) using semi-hardwood cuttings taken during June to August. Cuttings were stuck in a well-drained medium under intermittent mist after a quick dip of 10,000 ppm IBA.

Availability

Both of these patented cultivars are released through the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the University of Georgia Research Foundation. Plant propagators interested in producing these cultivars should contact the Georgia Seed Development Commission, 2420 S. Milledge Ave., Athens, GA 30605.

Literature Cited

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Table 1. Horticultural characteristics of *Raphiolepis* cultivars with improved adaptability, 1985-1992.

Cultivar	Plant size Ht. × spr. (m)	Flower color	Leafspot resistance ²	Cold tolerance ²
Eskimo	2.0 × 2.5	Lt. Pink-White	Very high	-15C/5F
Georgia Petite	0.8 × 1.0	Lt. Pink-White	Very high	-15C/5F
Georgia Charm	1.1 × 1.1	White	Very high	-15C/5F
Ovata	1.5 × 1.5	White	Moderate	-12C/10F

²Excerpted from Lit. Cited (1).

³Excerpted from Lit. Cited (1, 3), laboratory freeze tests.