



## More Wonderful Cultivars...

**Top row, left to right:** *P. foetida* var. *galapagensis*; *P. 'Aurora'*; *P. urbaniana*. **Center row, left to right:** *P. foetida* var. *hirsutissima*; *P. 'Pink Jewel 2'*; *P. 'Sarah Aimee'*. **Bottom row, left to right:** *P. palmeri* var. *subanceolata*; *P. foetida* var. *vitaceae*.

All photos by John Vanderplank.  
See article at right.

Photo Gallery

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Within a year or so of the time a new species is first introduced into cultivation the first new hybrids start to appear. This is well demonstrated by some of the newest cultivars to appear from the *foetida* group of species (subgenus *Dysosmia*) after the very recent introduction into cultivation of *P. palmeri* var. *sublanceolata*.

Maurizio Vecchia's cultivar *P. 'Aurora'* is a cross between *P. p.* var. *sublanceolata* and an unknown variety of *P. foetida*, and has lovely three lobed, shiny, waxy leaves whereas the cultivar *P. 'Pink Jewel 1'*, a cross between *P. p.* var. *sublanceolata* and *P. foetida* var. *hirsutissima* has thin but fleshy, broadly three lobed leaves that are covered with soft hair and are very similar to the leaves of its male parent *P. foetida* var. *hirsutissima*. *Passiflora 'Pink Jewel 2'*, a hybrid of *P. p.* var. *sublanceolata* and *P. urbaniana*, has narrow unlobed or very shallowly three lobed thick fleshy leaves that are covered with soft hair and are also very similar to those of its male parent *P. urbaniana*. The flowers of all these cultivars are quite delightful and very similar, medium-sized, reflexing, pale pink or mauvish pink followed by lovely bright deep pink or scarlet fruit.

Considering that all these cultivars have a common female parent, *P. palmeri* var. *sublanceolata*, it is perhaps not surprising that the flowers are very similar but it is most interesting to see the variation in the leaves of each of these cultivars, which seem to more closely

follow the male parent. Perhaps one can speculate as to the identity of the male parent of *P. 'Aurora'*, a red fruited *P. foetida* variety with thin waxy broadly three lobed leaves, perhaps *P. foetida* var. *parvifolia* or *P. foetida* var. *hibiscifolia* or *P. foetida* var. *Maxoni*. It may just be easier to ask Maurizio! The cultivar *P. 'Sarah Aimee'* is the result of the cross between *P. urbaniana* (female) and *P. foetida* var. *hirsutissima* (male). Again, the flowers are very similar to the flowers of *P. urbaniana* and the soft three lobed leaves to those of *P. foetida* var. *hirsutissima*. If one accepts this hypothesis, then this may help to unravel the mysteries of the parentage of some of our more perplexing cultivars, mainly *P. 'Amethyst'* and *P. x kewensis*.

The new cultivars of 2003 or 2004 may well include hybrids from the most recent species to be introduced into cultivation such as *P. triloba*, which started flowering in our greenhouses in June of this year and what a spectacular feast of large flowered new showy varieties we can expect! We have numerous fruits maturing on all the *P. foetida* taxa mentioned, crosses and back crosses, which should give rise to many exciting new cultivars. So if anyone would like to have a go at raising something different, I will send a mixed batch of seed to Cor Laurens our International Seed Bank manager for distribution. Have fun!