

(office use only)
Date of NB entry:

Name of project: Evaluation of *Ceanothus* for landscape use in the Pacific Northwest

Organization(s) in charge of project: Oregon State University Extension Service,
Marion County

Contact person: Neil Bell

Address: OSU Extension, 3180 Center Street NE #1361, Salem, OR
97301
Phone: 503-361-2671
Email: neil.bell@oregonstate.edu

Dates of project: Begun May, 2001, continuing through July, 2004

Location of project: Above wetlands at Oregon Garden

Brief description of project:

Ceanothus comprises about 50 deciduous or evergreen shrubs native to North America. Most of the *Ceanothus* species and varieties that exist are unknown to cultivation in Oregon, or have been grown only by enthusiasts. The reasons for this are that it is perceived that most *Ceanothus* lack hardiness or landscape adaptability in Oregon. Nevertheless, this group of plants should be attractive to industry, landscapers and gardeners. They are highly ornamental shrubs, most having attractive glossy leaves and being spectacular in flower. *Ceanothus* are mediterranean shrubs, and therefore are adapted to hot, dry summers and wet winters. As a result, they are for the most part exceptionally drought-tolerant and carefree plants, tolerating poor soils and requiring little, or no, fertilizer or water after establishment. Our goal with this trial is to evaluate *Ceanothus* varieties for landscape use in the Pacific Northwest.

Type of research (baseline data; hypothesis testing; field trial; case study; etc.):

Since May 2001 we have been evaluating 45 *Ceanothus* varieties in a field plot at the Oregon Garden. The trial was established above the wetlands. Three plants of each variety are planted in a completely randomized design. Each plant is measured for size twice per year, and flowering is rated every 10 days during the flowering season (March-August). Cold damage is rated each spring, and pest and disease problems are recorded. Results will be made available through popular and professional journals.

Funding source(s): Washington State Department of Agriculture