

was placed on the soil around the plants for aesthetic purposes, water conservation and weed suppression. Pine boughs were laid over the plants once the ground had frozen to provide winter protection against frost heaving.

Nomenclature follows the RHS Plant Finder. The taxa that were acquired under one name but were synonymous with another species or cultivar include: *Pulmonaria longifolia* 'Bertram Anderson' ('E.B. Anderson'), *P. mollis* (*P. mollissima*), *P. officinalis* 'Cambridge' ('Cambridge Blue'), 'Lewis Palmer' ('Highdown') and 'Mawson's Blue' ('Mawson's Variety'). Plants received as *P. officinalis* 'Rubra' were determined to be *P. rubra*, although some light spotting was observed on the basal leaves.

Observations

A comprehensive evaluation of the lungworts was undertaken from spring of 1994 through autumn of 1999. Each taxon was

evaluated on five criteria: 1) floral display, including flower color, flower production and bloom period; 2) habit display, including height and width measurements, foliage and habit quality; 3) cultural adaptability to the local environment; 4) disease and pest resistance; and 5) winter hardiness. A summary rating was assigned to each taxon based on flower production, habit quality, plant health, winter injury and disease or pest problems. Plant traits and evaluation specifics for the 38 taxa that successfully completed at least four years of the trial are shown in Table 1. The 13 taxa that received poor ratings due to disease, pest and winter damage are listed in Table 2.

Unlike many other perennials, lungworts generally do not produce large quantities of flowers; therefore, plants with lower flower production may have received good overall ratings based on higher ratings for the other criteria. Taxa with the highest flower production of greater than 60% coverage

included

pink and blue—and rarely white—often with buds of a different color. For example, the rosy-pink buds of ‘Excalibur’ opened to blue flowers, and the white blossoms of *Pulmonaria officinalis* ‘White Wings’ opened from pale pink buds. Flowers typically opened one color but matured to another color before falling off; for example, the flowers of ‘Saint Ann’s’ opened magenta and then turned to blue, and the flowers of *P. saccharata* ‘Bielefeld Pink’ opened blue but changed to pink. The flowers of *P. rubra* did not change colors but remained pinkish-red throughout the flowering period.

The lungworts began as low-growing, tight clumps, but eventually formed loose masses as the plants spread. The average plant size after four years in the garden was 10 inches tall and 24 inches wide. The largest plant was *Pulmonaria mollis* at 18 inches tall and 45 inches wide. None of the lungworts spread aggressively or were invasive in the test site. The lungworts occasionally reseeded in the evaluation plots. Seedlings observed growing within or nearby the parent plants were typically of hybrid origin and not similar in appearance to the parent plants.

Taxa with dense to slightly loose clumps for most of the growing season were considered to have good habit quality. They included ‘Benediction’, ‘Blue Mound’, ‘Excalibur’, ‘Glacier’, ‘Little Star’, ‘Merlin’,

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