




**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**  
Driven to Discover™





# From lilies to gladiolus: Flower Power







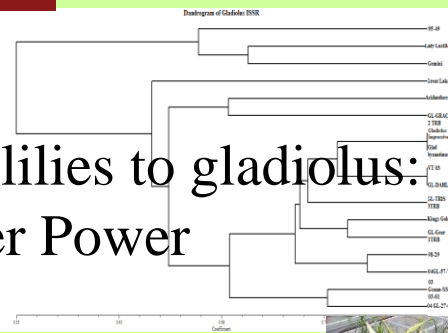
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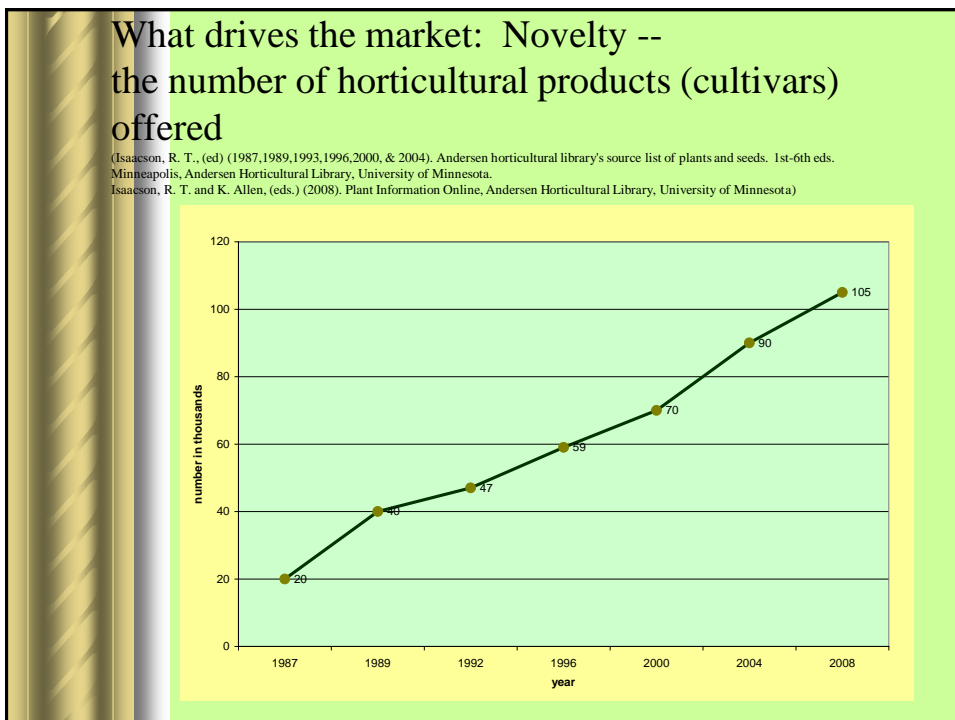












## Keys to our success...

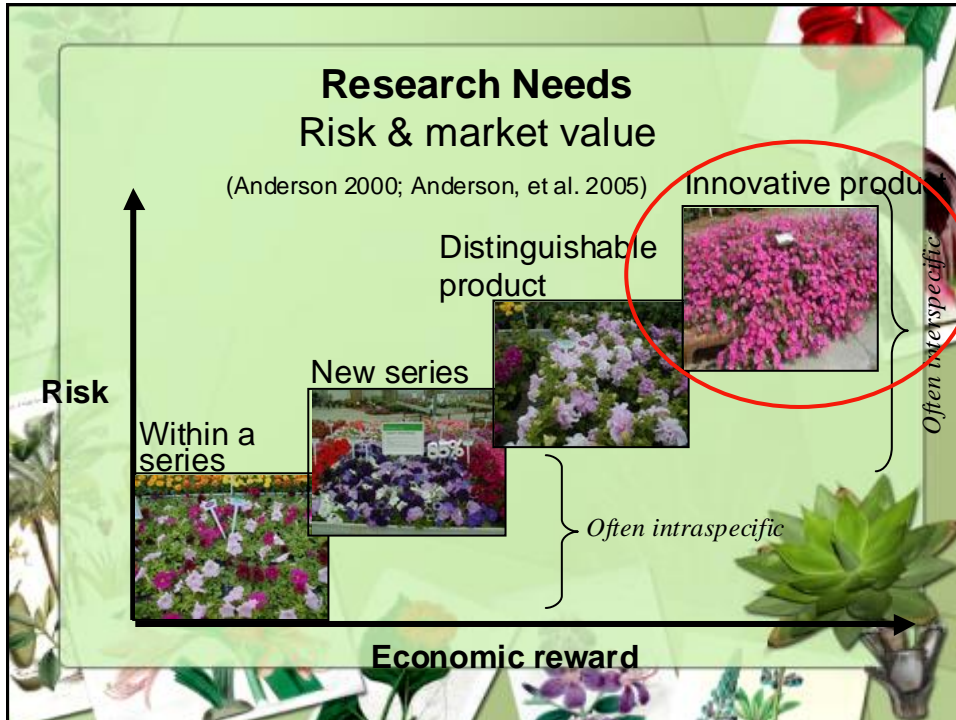
- F<sub>1</sub> hybrids (petunia/impatiens)—have hybrid vigor compared to open-pollinated (OP) types
- Seed, veg. propagation
- Plastics & plug trays
- Automation
- Soilless media
- Post-harvest quality
- Shipping



David Tristram

## Luther Burbank – the father of US Flower Breeders *Breeding, selecting for novelty...to market!*





## Traits of interest to gardeners

- Co\$t
- New or novel
- Instant color
- Low maintenance
- Heat/drought tolerance
- Insect/pest/disease resistance
- Edible landscapes
- Therapeutic gardening

## Gen Y are looking for...



- Bytes: sound, info, garden, food, flower
- Speed, rapidity of access, impatience, **good things**...shouldn't **take** too much **time** (< a few seconds)
- Trending sustainable, organic, locavore, intolerant of many things (gluten, etc.)
- Floral, garden bytes: lazy, efficient gardening
- \$ less of an issue than convenience (apps)
- Online shopping: Proven Winners – people pay exorbitant money for a few items + shipping online (Dirk, 2015)
- **Flower Power & Convenience!**



Wheelbarrow gardeners are those who hesitate to plant today for fear they will want to move the plants tomorrow

## Flower Power & Convenience

- Why are bedding plants so popular?
- Flowers improve the quality of life
- Gardening is the #1 U.S. hobby (>75 million households)
- Retail expenditures for flower products were \$55 billion in 2002 (USDA)
- Gardening gurus: Martha Stewart & Rebecca Coles



## Flower Colors, Patterns



## *Impatiens walleriana*

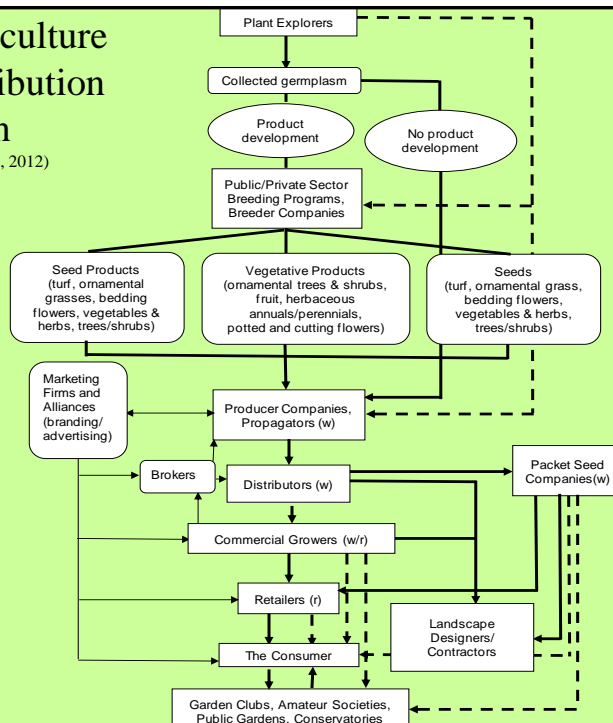


# OP Marigold Seed Production (Gilroy, CA)



## Horticulture Distribution Chain

(Drew et al., 2012)





## Flower Breeding & Genetics

What are we looking for?



1926 – Winter hardy herbaceous perennials...



## U of Minnesota Flower Breeding (Public Sector)



*In N. America:* Oldest, continuously operating public-sector flower breeding program

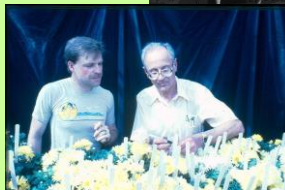
*In the world:* Oldest chrysanthemum breeding program

Greenhouse chrysanthemums, roses

- C.E. Cary (1924-1929)

Garden chrysanthemums, (roses)


- L.E. Longley (1929-1949)
- R.E. Widmer (1949-1988)
- P.D. Ascher (1988-1999)
- N.O. Anderson (1999- )




**110 Cultivars Released (1939-)**

- 7 - greenhouse chrysanthemums (1934-1940)
- 101 - garden chrysanthemums (1939-)
- 1 - winter hardy gladiolus (2012-)
- 1 - frost-tolerant gaura (2008-)



**‘Beatrice’**




**‘Dr. Longley’**



**‘Snowstorm’**








**MINNQUEEN ROYAL KNIGHT**



***Lilium xformolongi***  
(*L. formosanum* x *L. longiflorum*)

- Flower ~200+d >sowing
- Continuous flowering
- SC; sig. inbreeding depression
- *VER1*, *VER2* genes for non-vernalization requirement
- Long-term breeding objective: seed-propagated, colored hybrids with continuous flowering

(Anderson, et al., 2012a, b; Anderson and Dunn, 2003; Anderson, 2005, 2007; Zlesak and Anderson, 2010)





## Early Objectives (2000-2010)

- Introduction of color into *L. xformolongi* types (Sec. Leucolirion) via interspecific hybridization
- Potential methods to overcome issue of vernalization req't. & long juvenility:
  1. *L. martagon* – Class I (Baranova, 1972) initiates flowers < cold, although distantly related (Sec. Martagon)
  2. *L. rubellum* -- interspecific hybrid bridge cultivars, e.g. 'Rosario'; closely related
  3. *L. longiflorum* – pk. colored forms

*L. martagon* "Claude Shride"  
Photos by Frans Officier



# Genotypes, Crosses, ER

- *L. xformolongi* parents: several tested, most successful genotype w/ GCA—[00L-111-343 x 51-202-1] BC<sub>1</sub>
- *L. martagon* GCA parents: 'Arabian Knight', 'Cadense', 'Claude Shride', 'Mrs. R.O. Backhouse', 'Nepera', 'Slate's Select', 'Terrace City' (Frans Officer)



- Crossed in both directions using cut style technique (Lim and van Tuyl, 2006)
- ER required in all cases when female parents were *L. martagon* (14d post-pollination)
- ER required (34-50d, late term) for majority of F<sub>2</sub>s



## Most successful cross (07L-14) for colored interspecifics

*L. formosum* x *L. longiflorum*



*L. formosum* x *L. longiflorum*



*L. xformolongi* 'Raizan Herald' LD(4)

*L. xformolongi* 'Raizan' #1 LD(3)

00L-111-34 selfed

*L. formosum* 92-252B-3 selfed

00L-111-34-3 F<sub>2</sub>

51-202-1 F<sub>2</sub>

[00L-111-343 x 51-202-1] BC<sub>1</sub> x *L. martagon* 'Cadense'

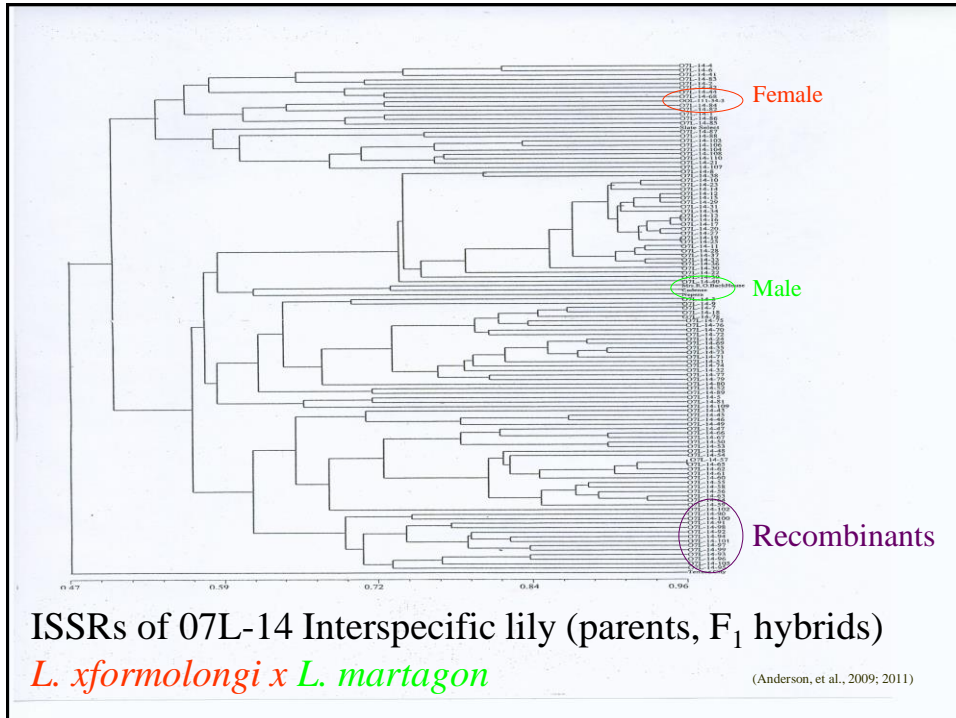


F<sub>1</sub>s)



(n=111)

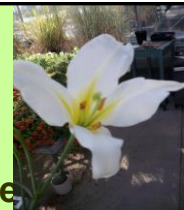




## Goals for recombinant lilies

- Determine h<sup>2</sup>, allelic expression of unique 07L-14, 06L-11 recombinant morphological traits (BCs, CBCs)
- Assay unique recombinants for similarity with:
  - *lam-1* mutant (*Nicotiana sylvestris*)
  - *narrow leaf1* (*nal1*) mutant (*Oryza sativa*) – same leaf morphology

Comparative recombinant vs. WT assays of plants, leaves: macro-/microscopic histology, SEM, obtain *lam-1* sequence, probe recombinants for sequence homology and gene sequences for similarity with related monocots; mapping mutant gene, dev. of mapping population, PCR markers



(McHale, 1992; Qi, et al., 2008)



## Winter hardy *Gladiolus*

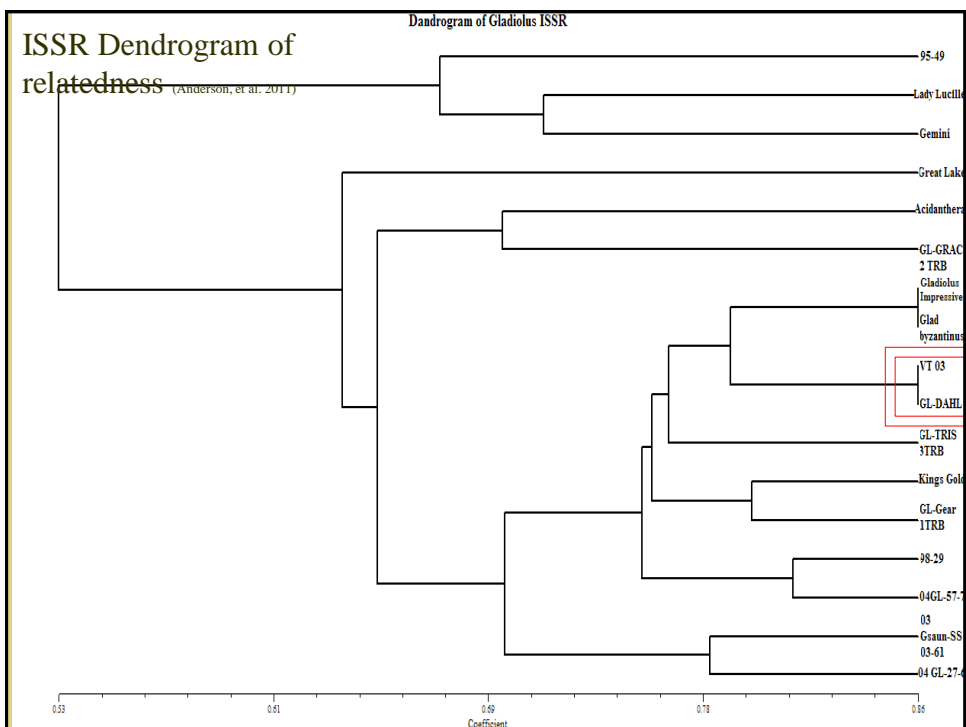
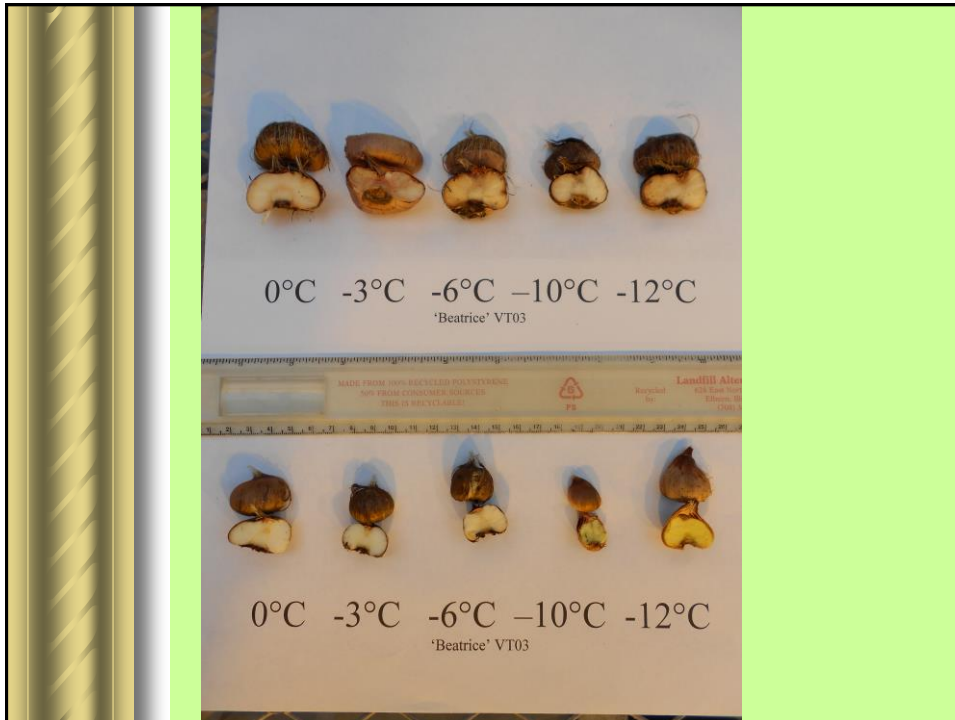
- Who wants to dig corms every fall?
- 'Beatrice' (Z4; Z3 if mulched)
- In trials with potential licensees
- Establishing N.A. production chain for this geophyte



## 'Beatrice' Lab Freezing Tests: scores for corm tissues (1-5 scale)

| Temp. | Basal Plate             | Stem, Main axis | Apical Meristem         | Corm tissues |
|-------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 0C    | 5                       | 5               | 5                       | 5            |
| -3C   | 4.5                     | 5               | 4.5                     | 5            |
| -6C   | 4.5                     | 5               | 3.5                     | 4.5          |
| -10C  | 4                       | 4               | 3.5                     | 4.5          |
| -12C  | 3.5 (LT <sub>50</sub> ) | 4               | 3.5 (LT <sub>50</sub> ) | 4.5          |
|       |                         |                 |                         |              |
|       |                         |                 |                         |              |





## Hardiness Heritability ( $h^2$ )

| Crossing Group        | No. Roots | Root Length | Corm damage | Shoot Length |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Hardy x hardy         | 0.08      | 0.29        | -0.04       | -0.43        |
| Hardy x Non-hardy     | 0.31      | 0.37        | 0.08        | 0.19         |
| Non-hardy x Non-hardy | 0.67      | -0.14       | 0.15        | -0.15        |

(Anderson, et al. (2011). Heritability of cold tolerance (winter hardiness) in *Gladilus xgrandiflorus*. InTech, Plant Breeding.)

## What we're looking for...

- **Winter survival**
- **-AND-**
- **Yearly flowering without digging**
- **Multi-corm survival for multiple flowering clumps**









Decrease  
internode  
lengths in  
flowers  
&  
add in flower  
surround

*This created a  
completely new  
form...*



## Dwarf, potted gladiolus?

### Example interspecific hybrid changes

- Dwarf plants, large flower types
- Flower surround vs. "faced"

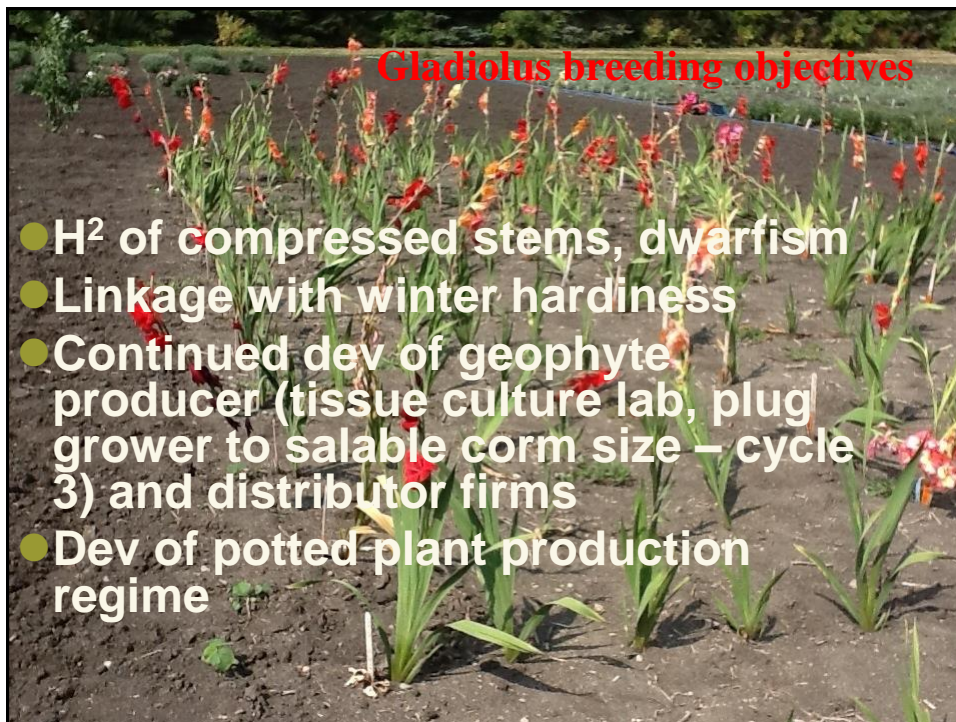


## Rapid generation cycling

- Normally: 3-5 years (sowing to flowering)
- Selection strategies to reduce generation time:
  - Germination (G) wk (plug phase; toothpicking)
  - Correlate G with flowering date
  - Fast cycling of "generations": combining truncated periods of greenhouse growth, dry down & cold storage treatments
  - Selection for high leaf number and early stem stalk emergence in cycles 1-3
- Tested with 71 crosses (N=1,026 seedlings):
  - G primarily in G2-G4 (some in G5-G7)
  - **Cycle 1:** 100% - 1 lf/seedling
  - **Cycle 2:** 1-7 lvs/seedling; 6% had elongated stems (1-4 lvs)
  - Stem elongation is highly heritable trait (6 crosses)
  - **Cycle 3:** flowering in high leaf no. & seedlings w/stems (Cycle 2)
- **3 generations/year possible**, combining truncated periods of greenhouse growth, dry down & cold storage treatments

(Anderson, et al., 2015)





## Funding sources—Thank you!

- MN Agric. Expt. Station
- AMVIS, GCAR (Czech – U.S.)
- Ball Horticultural Company
- Beatrice H. Anderson Flower Breeding Fund
- J. William Fulbright (CIES)
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- McLaughlin Gormley King Co.
- Minnesota North Star Lily Society
- Minnesota Gladiolus Society
- Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association Foundation
- National Science Foundation
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