

**MEDIA RELEASE: 11 FEBRUARY 2016**

## ***Acer* ‘Moonrise’: the stunning new introduction by Hillier Nurseries at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016**

**NEW AND EXCLUSIVE TO HILLIER IN THE UK**



First discovered by the acclaimed Japanese Maple specialist, Carl Munn, as a chance seedling on his Oregon nursery back in 1991, *Acer shirasawanum* ‘Moonrise’ will finally make its UK debut with Hillier Nurseries at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this May.

The great strengths of *Acer* ‘Moonrise’ lie in its spectacular seasonal colour and its resistance to disease and leaf burn. In spring, its new shoots emerge bright red making a beautiful contrast with the fully opened, fresh, chartreuse leaves. In summer, *Acer* ‘Moonrise’ is totally covered in almost fluorescent chartreuse foliage, which turns vibrant red in autumn.

Carl Munn observed the plant’s growth and habit for 15 years before starting production, and named this variety ‘Moonrise’ as the colour progression reminded him of a moon rising in the night sky.

*Acer* ‘Moonrise’ loves a spot in sun or partial shade in moist, well-drained soil and is hardy to -22°C. This variety lends itself equally to planting in a mixed border or in a large container as a specimen plant on the patio or balcony, and will grow to 3m tall by 1m wide. Light pruning can be carried out in spring or summer.

From Chelsea Week (week beginning 23 May), *Acer* ‘Moonrise’ will be available to buy from Hillier Garden Centres and leading garden centres across the country in 3 litre pots priced at around £30.

Hillier was founded in 1864 by Edwin Hillier and remains a family-run nursery with the fifth generation now actively involved in the business. Hillier employs 500 people across its wholesale nursery, trees and garden centre divisions and is based at Ampfield in Hampshire.

Hillier has been involved in the RHS Chelsea Flower Show from the early days and is the most successful exhibitor in the show's history with a record 70 consecutive RHS Chelsea Gold medals.

This year's Hillier Exhibit is entitled '**Hillier in Springtime**' and has been designed by the award-winning garden designer and landscape architect, Sarah Eberle. Sarah, who was Design Director of Hillier Landscapes for many years, is the first woman to ever design a show exhibit for Hillier. She has won Gold medals in every other garden design category at Chelsea, and is hoping to "complete the set" with her first ever exhibit in the Great Pavilion.

## **Media Contacts**

*Acer shirasawanum* '**Moonrise**' ('Munn001'<sup>PBR</sup>) is protected by European Plant Breeders' Rights under number EU 240521. This variety was developed by Munn Nursery (USA).

For information on *Acer* '**Moonrise**', hi-res images and to arrange interviews, please contact:

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