Nicholas Erwin

Weigela: Is there a Link Between Precocious Flowering and Re-blooming?
Objective

- To determine if precocious flowering seedlings are more likely to rebloom later in the growing season than non-precocious seedlings
- To identify a marketable Weigela that can rebloom throughout the season
Weigela are hardy flowering shrubs in MN
Height and width varies by cultivar
Flower color: white, pink or red
Flowers in June
Introduction

- At the Arboretum/ Horticultural Research Center, Weigela breeding began 1999
- Goals of the Weigela breeding program are:
  - Cold tolerance
  - Compact growth habit
  - Attractive flowers and foliage
Precocious flowering: flowers develop prematurely, at a very early age
Reblooming: plant blooms again later in the season, with a visible number of flowers
In roses: precocious flowering has been observed which has been linked to reblooming as the plants mature
Does this also happen in Weigela?
Precocious Flowering
Materials

- 5 populations
- 2 groups of accession numbers in each
  - 1st group: precocious flowering plants
  - 2nd group: parent plants
- 186 plants total
- Scale of 0-4 using pictures to compare the amount of flowering
Materials: Flower Grading Scale

0 (0%)

1 (1%-25%)
Materials: Flower Grading Scale

2 (26%-50%)  
3 (51%-75%)
Materials: Flower Grading Scale

4 (76%-100%)
Methods

- Made weekly observations at HRC
- Observations started 6/23 and ended 8/11
- Used flower-grading sheet to compare plants
Results

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If there is a link then it will allow for earlier selections which saves time and money
Will continue to take data this year and next
References