Taxonomy, Distribution and Habitat

- **Hydrangeaceae**
  - Genus: *Carpenteria*
  - Only member in the genus

- Native to Fresno County in California
  - Chaparral environment
  - Only seven naturally occurring areas at altitudes between 1100-4400 feet
  - Average yearly temperatures between 38°F and 98°F
Evergreen shrub: 6’x3’ in gardens/12’x8’ in the wild

- Opposite, lanceolate leaves.
  - Smooth margins
  - 4-10cm long
  - Bicolor (glossy dark green top/lighter green bottom)

- Inflorescence
  - Terminal clusters of 3-7cm white flowers w/ 5-8 petals

- Seed pod
  - 1.5cm leathery capsule
Propagation

• Can be propagated both by seed or semi-hardwood cutting.

• Method I used:
  • 288-plug tray with LC8 Sunshine Mix
  • ½ covered with vermiculite, ½ w/o vermiculite
  • Mist house @ 21°C for 5wks
  • Covered had 3 germ, uncovered had 45 germ

• Seedlings were too small to transplant
Product Specifications, Market Niche

- Would serve well as a mid-size hedge next to a path
- Would also work well planted next to a wall
- Great low-maintenance shrub
- Perfect for people who don’t know how to take care of plants (hard to over/under water)
- Gardens with deer issues

http://apps.rhs.org.uk/plantselector/plant?plantid=332
Anticipated Cultural Requirements, Genetic Improvement

- Frost resistant cultivars exist: ‘bodnant’ cultivar.
  - USDA zone 8b
- Prefers fertile, loamy, well-drained soil.
- Can sustain a beating from drought/heat/flooding.
- Breeding for colors other than just white.
- Breeding cold hardiness
Production Schedule

- Sow thinly on well-drained, sandy soil
- Transplant when 2-inches tall
- Keep in pots for 2 years
- On second year, plant in ground
- Will flower under long-days in its third year
References

