"Favorite Flowers of the Chesapeake Master Gardeners"

***Caryopteris* x clandonensis -** submitted by Victoria Thomas
Common Name: Bluebeard, Blue Mist Shrub, Blue Spirea
Family: Lamiaceae

Photo: NCSU_CxC

Caryopteris x clandonensis is a low-mounded, deciduous shrub valued for its aromatic foliage and late summer flowers said to resemble clouds of blue smoke or mist. Flowers are very attractive to butterflies, bees and other beneficial insects. This shrub is native to east Asia (China, Korea, Japan, Mongolia).

Its leaves are aromatic when brushed. It has showy, fragrant powder blue flowers, provides a nectar food source for to bees and butterflies; is drought tolerant, deer and rabbit resistant, and its blooms can last more than four weeks. It pairs well with other drought-tolerant perennials, especially those blooming in sulfur yellow, bright orange or hot pink.

'Blue Mist' is a cultivar that is noted for producing powder blue flowers in late summer. 'Dark Knight' has the deepest blue color and is smaller in size.

Plant Specs:

- Zone 5-8, but some varieties are zone 6-9
- Grow in full sun, provide low water and good drainage
- Prune in late winter/early spring
- Height: 2-3 ft
- Spread: 2-3 ft
- Bloom Time: early August to early October

Photo:WSUCxC

Sources – Data and Photos:

- University of California ANR – plant descriptions by MGs, with closeup photos (UCANRCxC): https://ucanr.edu/datastoreFiles/268-702.pdf, http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Perennials/Summer_Plant_List/
- University of Connecticut – excellent plant database and cultivar descriptions: http://hort.uconn.edu/detail.php?pid=90
- Denver Botanic Gardens – great photos with and without pollinators (DBGCxC1 & 2): http://navigate.botanicgardens.org/weboi/oecgi2.exe/INET_ECM_DispPl?NAMENUM=19134&startpage=1
- Missouri Botanical Garden – excellent database and pollinator photo (MOBG1): http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=244664&isprofile=1&gen=Caryopteris
- Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL – excellent plant database and cultivar descriptions: https://www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/tree-plant-descriptions/bluebeard
- North Carolina State Extension – good plant database and photos (NCSU_CxC): https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/caryopteris-x-clandonensis/
- Santa Fe Botanical Garden - https://santafebotanicalgarden.org/april-2013/
- Washington State University - excellent pollinator photo (WSUCxC): http://navigate.botanicgardens.org/weboi/oecgi2.exe/INET_ECM_DispPl?NAMENUM=19134&startpage=1

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