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Reynolds Partners with Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association To Test Plants for “Beautiful Gardens”

~Committee to promote well-suited plants for Virginia and Mid-Atlantic region~

RICHMOND, Va. (October 5, 2007) – J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is a program partner with the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association’s “Beautiful Gardens” Plant Introduction Program. The goal of the program is to provide the green industry, as well as the public, with exciting new and underutilized plants that are well-suited for Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region.

JSRCC is one of several distinguished partners - including Virginia Tech’s Horticulture Department – and is housing plants for the program. JSRCC students will care for plants, fertilize, construct greenhouses and perform plant propagation.

“Reynolds is playing a unique role because of our central location and quality horticulture courses,” said David Seward, head of JSRCC’s Horticulture Program. “We’re very excited about the whole process. This should do great things for our students, as well as the state of Virginia and the public.”

The “Beautiful Gardens” plant selection committee suggests plants for evaluation and tests them in multi-year comparative trials. Plants exhibiting superior pest resistance, wide adaptation and beauty will be released to participating growers for propagation. The program is still in the pre-marketing testing stages. When testing is complete, the program will promote and sell plants to growers and the public with the “Beautiful Gardens” logo – ensuring buyers they are receiving plants best-suited for the area.

“There are some tough growing conditions in Virginia,” said Seward. “Hopefully the ‘Beautiful Gardens’ tag on a plant will help growers with sales and ensure quality for consumers.”

For more information about the program and promotion plants, visit www.beautifulgardens.org.

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is the third largest college in the Virginia Community College System. Reynolds offers a variety of programs and services to the residents of the City of Richmond and the counties of Hanover, Henrico, Goochland, Louisa and Powhatan. The college operates three comprehensive campuses located in rural, urban and suburban settings and serves over 18,000 credit students. The Community College Workforce Alliance provides training to an additional 14,000 non-credit students each year. Additional information is available at the College's website: www.reynolds.edu.