

# FARWEST

PORTLAND 2017

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Farwest 2017 Hosts Speakers Ryan Contreras And Kim Shearer To Discuss Plant Development At Oregon State And Morton Arboretum**

Wilsonville, Oregon (July 10, 2017) – Renowned plant breeders, Ryan Contreras and Kim Shearer, will be delivering seminars at this year's Farwest, August 23-25 in Portland, OR, of particular interest for nursery growers keeping an eye on emerging plants that will shape the future for the industry and the marketplace.

Ryan Contreras, Ph.D, Associate Professor, Oregon State University, will deliver an address, 'What's New from Oregon State Plant Breeding', on Friday, August 25, 8:30-9:30a, in Room B113-114. Dr. Contreras will discuss the value in producing and marketing plants that serve a more overt function or require fewer inputs. He will share ongoing work at the Ornamental Plant Breeding Laboratory at OSU in breeding plants with novel fragrance and flowering, disease resistance, seed characteristics, and improved qualities for native evergreen edible shrubs.

Dr. Contreras teaches plant identification and plant growth and development courses at OSU. He also directs the Ornamental Plant Breeding Program, which focuses on developing new cultivars of woody shrubs and trees with improved traits.

Shearer, Tree and Shrub Breeder, The Morton Arboretum, will present 'The Morton Arboretum's New Plant Development Program', covering the history of the breeding program at the Arboretum. She will share releases currently in the marketplace and look at future introductions in the pipeline. All Arboretum introductions are marketed through the Chicagoland Grows® plant introduction program. Her talk is scheduled for Wednesday, August 23, 9:45-10:45a, Room B113-114.

Shearer earned B.S. degrees in Horticulture and Plant Biology at North Carolina State University and M.S. degree at Oregon State University in Horticulture with a concentration in Plant Breeding and Genetics. Her graduate degree projects focused on inducing and evaluating hereditary variation in maples, penstemon, and cape hyacinth. At NC State, she was mentored by Dr. Tom Ranney and Dr. Jenny Xiang, and conducted research on cultivated dogwoods and native azaleas.

For complete information on all Education Seminars (registration required), free Mini-Sessions, and general information on Farwest 2017, visit [www.FarwestShow.com](http://www.FarwestShow.com).

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The Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN), based in Wilsonville, represents more than 800 wholesale growers, retailers, landscapers and suppliers. Oregon's ornamental horticulture industry is one of the state's largest agricultural commodities, with annual sales of \$830 million. Oregon's nursery industry is a traded sector; nearly 80 percent of the nursery plants grown in Oregon are shipped out of state. For information, visit [www.oan.org](http://www.oan.org) or call 503-682-5089. The Farwest Show, the largest green industry show in the West, is produced by the OAN, a trade organization that represents and serves the interests of the ornamental horticulture industry. Any revenue realized by the OAN is reinvested into the industry through education, research, marketing support and government relations. For more information about the 2017 Farwest Show, visit [www.FarwestShow.com](http://www.FarwestShow.com) or call 503-682-5089.

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