



The **ARNOLD**  
**ARBORETUM**  
of HARVARD UNIVERSITY

## 2016 Members' Plant Dividend *Enkianthus campanulatus*

*Enkianthus campanulatus* has been revered as a choice ornamental shrub at the Arnold Arboretum for over a century, highlighted and recommended frequently in the pages of the Arboretum's *Bulletin of Popular Information* and *Arnoldia*. Redvein enkianthus has been described as “[one of] Japan’s greatest gifts to the gardens of eastern North America” (*Bulletin of Popular Information*; May 28, 1930), and listed among the best shrubs for Massachusetts gardens (*Arnoldia*; March 9, 1951). An accession dating to 1902 from Charles S. Sargent’s original collection still thrives in the Explorer’s Garden—proof that when sited properly, this shrub passes the test of time.

Clusters of delicate, bell-shaped flowers of a creamy yellow streaked with red appear in May. Lustrous dark green leaves change to vibrant shades of yellow, orange, and red in autumn. Tiered, architectural branching makes this graceful shrub outstanding for use as a specimen. It grows 8 to 12 feet tall, and in Japan it is frequently sheared and enjoyed as a hedge. Redvein enkianthus is in the Ericaceae (heather) family, and like many members including rhododendrons, performs best in moist, well-drained, acidic soil in full sun to part shade. At the Arnold Arboretum, look for fine specimens located on the southern end of the Azalea Border on Meadow Road.



Photo by Robert Mayer

### Planting Instructions

Carefully unpack your plant. Woody plants that have broken dormancy do not fare well indoors, so you will want to get the plant outside as soon as conditions permit. Begin the hardening-off process after the last frost date, gradually transitioning the plant to outdoor conditions. One way to do this is to place it in a protected and partially shaded spot, either close to your house or in another protected location such as in the shade of an evergreen plant. Long periods of direct sunlight should be avoided during this time as it may burn the new foliage and reduce overall plant vigor. Once it has become acclimated to the rigors of being outside it will be ready for planting, preferably in a location that is protected from foot traffic and accidental breakage.