MANCHURIAN PROMISE

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Seedling number NB2. Parentage: 'Sedona' x 'Rosalind Elsie Franklin', thus an advanced generation Lutea hybrid. Large SEMI-DOUBLE coral-salmon-peach blend with dark maroon flares. Petals are highly ruffled, notched, crimped and those at the center face up. Color is reminiscent of originator's Manchurian apricot tree in bloom. Intensity of color can be variable from year to year, presumably due to temperature, but always attractive. Sheath is light pink, as are the stigmas. Average number of carpels 5, color green. Stamens are maroon tipped with waxy yellow anthers. No pollen, but produces seeds, though sparsely, with application of suitable pollen. Flower carriage is outward, substance quite heavy, but well supported by sturdy stems. Foliage is large and tinted in red during the early part of the growing season. Blooms with other lutea hybrids. Plant height is 4 feet (122 cm) but may be greater in areas that have less severe winters. Stem hardiness has been good thus far, with little winter damage, noteworthy because Lutea hybrids typically do not grow over 4 feet in Wisconsin due to winter kill of stems. One of the more popular "woodies" during spring viewing at Solaris Farms.