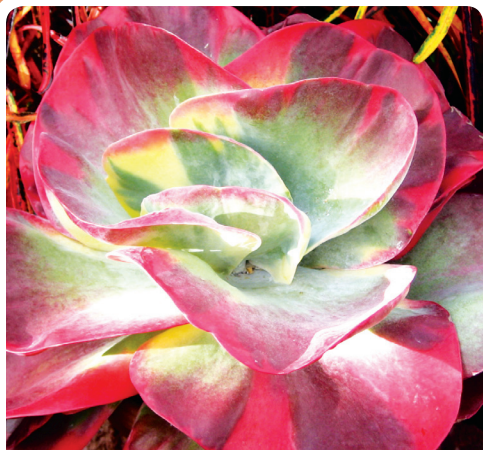


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MANAGEMENT

New Plant Pavilion 2011





New plants ABOUND in 2011

There's one thing that won't be lacking in 2011. That's options. You need plants to grow and sell? The opportunities are almost limitless. New plants are hitting the green industry from seemingly every direction this year. And we're happy to showcase them.

Once again *Nursery Management* is hosting the New Plant Pavilion at this year's American Nursery & Landscape Association Management Clinic, Jan. 26-29 in Louisville, Ky. If you're lucky enough to attend this wonderful educational event, you'll get to vote on your favorites.

In the meantime, take a look at some of the fantastic new varieties available this year. There are some truly novel new plants hitting the market, some new variations on old standards and some new freak mutations with wonderful new characteristics.

If you're like me, you'll pore over the following pages like a computer technician dives into new software manual.

Happy reading, and I hope to see you in Louisville.



tdavis@gie.net

New Plant Pavilion

Achillea Blooms of Bressingham's *Achillea millefolium* 'Pineapple Mango' is the newest member of the company's **Tutti Frutti Series** of yarrows. The series includes long-blooming plants that are

robust and heat and humidity tolerant.

'Pineapple Mango' has multi-hued flower clusters that start out rich pink, mature to light pink-salmon and finish pale yellow. The foliage is rich green and disease resistant.

It grows 23 inches tall and wide and flowers mid-June through July. Plant in full sun. It is adaptable to most soil types, provided adequate drainage. Deadheading encourages additional flowering.

It's hardy to USDA Hardiness Zones 4-8 and is relatively maintenance free. It's excellent for perennial borders, large containers and as a cut flower. Propagation is by licensed growers only.

Agapanthus

Briggs Plant Propagators is offering *Agapanthus* × 'Summer Skies.' This perennial features large clusters of striped blue flowers over rich green foliage.



Achillea 'Pineapple Mango'

It creates a powerful display when planted in masses, and is striking as a stand-alone plant in containers. It is easy to grow and pest free, making it a hit with both homeowners and commercial landscaper customers.

Mature size is 24 inches high and wide. Flower scapes can reach 36 inches.

It's hardy to Zone 7 and grows best in full to part sun. The plant's foliage is semi-evergreen and forms basal clumps.

Astilbe

From Garden Splendor comes *Astilbe* 'Little Vision in Pink,' bred in Holland by Wim van Veen, Noorden. This new dwarf cultivar is robust and produces sturdy, upright plumes of strong-pink flowers. The blossoms are prominently displayed above the canopy of rich, dark-green summer foliage.

It grows 14-16 inches high and spreads 12-15 inches. It's hardy to Zone 4 and grows best in partial or full shade.

It's suitable for gardens of all sizes, as well as front borders, beds lining shady paths and driveways, areas near water features and container gardens. It is also a superb groundcover and cut flower.

Azaleas

Proven Winners Color-Choice's new **Bloom-A-Thon** azaleas are now available from Greenleaf Nurseries. These reblooming



Top: Bloom-A-Thon Double Pink azalea. Left: *Agapanthus* 'Summer Skies.' Right: *Astilbe* 'Little Vision in Pink.'

azaleas are initially available in four colors: **Lavender, Red, White and Double Pink.**

These patented plants produce an abundance of large flowers in spring, then begin another bloom cycle in early July during the heat of the summer. The flowering will continue through fall and until hard frost.

Plants are hardy to Zone 6, and cold-tolerance testing continues. The plants were originally hybridized by Bob Head at Head-Lee Nursery in Seneca, S.C.

Plants produce dark-green foliage with heavy pubescence. They're self branching and remain compact in the landscape. Size varies by variety, but most will reach 5-6 feet tall.

Part sun to dappled shade is ideal. They also require

adequate moisture and a fertile, well-drained soil.

Barberry

Berberis thunbergii 'Orange Rocket' is being released from PlantHaven through Greenleaf Nurseries. This shrub has vibrant coral-orange new foliage and a tight columnar habit.

Foliage color is best in full sun. As leaves age, they evolve to a mid green. The plant reaches 2 feet high but spreads only 16 inches.

Trim back hard at early stages to encourage strong basal branching. Plant in full sun to light shade in well-drained soils. It's suitable for landscape plantings, as a garden specimen and as a container plant.

It finishes in a 1-gallon container in 12 months from a 2½-inch liner. The

same liner would finish in 24 months in a 2-gallon pot. It's hardy to Zone 5.

Begonias

The popular **Bonfire** begonia series now includes **Choc Pink** and **Choc Red** varieties, each with dark-chocolate-colored foliage. They were developed by New Zealand Plant and Food Research, managed by Tesselaar Plants and are being sold through Ball Horticultural Co.'s Selecta First Class products.

In addition to dramatic, serrated foliage, Bonfire Choc Red and Choc Pink have a full, upright to mounding habit that's perfect for the landscape as well as containers and hanging baskets. The plants' profusion of bright flower colors contrast dramatically against chocolate/plum foliage.

And like the original Bonfire selections, these varieties handle heat, humidity and drought much better than other begonia varieties while delivering colorful flowers and fantastic foliage all summer long.

They can be grown in full sun or partial shade and perform well in both summer rains or dry summer conditions. They are ideal where masses of color are required with little or no care.

Plants reach 20 inches



Berberis 'Orange Rocket'

high and wide, and flowers are 2 inches across.

Blueberries

Monrovia's **Bountiful Blue** blueberry (*Vaccinium corybosum* 'FLX - 2') is new to the market in 2011.

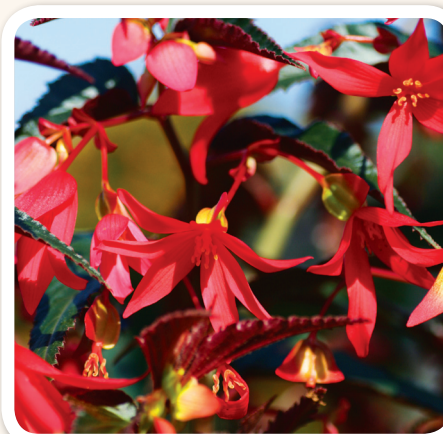
Year-round interest is guaranteed with this new, exclusive introduction. Not only does it offer a heavy set of large, super-sweet berries, but new growth is pink turning to purplish blue.

Blue summer foliage makes it a standout in landscapes or containers. Pretty white blossoms appear in spring and purplish fall foliage adds a spark of color.

It's a compact grower, reaching just 3-4 feet tall. It grows best in full sun and acidic to neutral soils and is hardy to Zones 6-10.

V. darrowii 'Native Blue,' from Briggs Plant Propagators, has an outstanding compact habit, produces prolific berries and has pastel-colored, evergreen leaves. The foliage displays soft-pink hues as leaves emerge, maturing to glaucous blue. Eventually with age they become dark green.

Abundant, small, blue-black berries are semi-sweet, flavorful and draw songbirds to the garden. It's finely branched and densely compact, making it great for a low hedge. In 10 years plants reach 18-24 inches high and 24 inches wide. It's hardy to Zone 7 and prefers full to part sun and slightly



Top: Bountiful Blue blueberries. Left: Choc Pink begonia. Right: Choc Red begonia.

acidic soils.

It was selected by Steven Stringer of the USDA-ARS Small Fruit Research Station in Poplarville, Miss.

Buddleia

New from Ball Horticultural Co., ***Buddleia Flutterby Petite Lavender*** ('Podaras #12') features lavender flowers and gray-green foliage. It is the newest member of the company's Flutterby series of butterfly bushes.

All in the series are compact growers with mounding/spreading habits. Petite Lavender grows 24-36 inches high and wide.

Members of the series also produce less viable seed than the species. This makes them more ecologically responsible options.

They are drought and heat tolerant and excellent plants for late-spring and summer color. They're hardy to -20°F and grow best in full sun.

Centaurea

Centaurea 'Black Sprite'

from Skagit Gardens has silky, black flower petals that form spidery starbursts that are silhouetted against sturdy foliage. The gray-green leaves have an attractive silvery sheen. Low and bushy, 'Black Sprite' is drought tolerant and easy to grow almost anywhere. It's hardy to Zone 3 and blooms May through June. It grows 14 inches high and spreads 24 inches. Its unique, basic, black flower color can accessorize almost anything for a stunning display in beds, borders and bouquets.

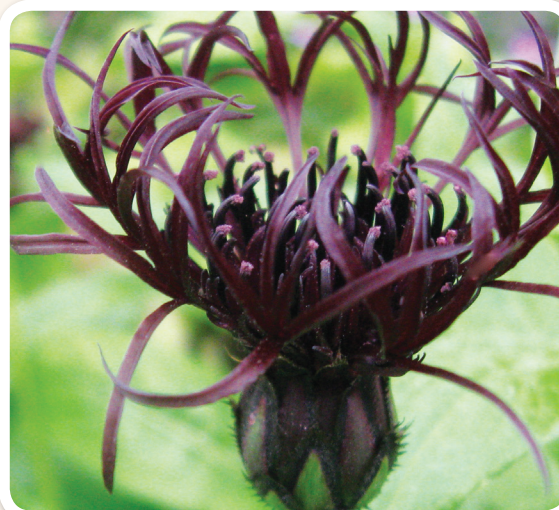
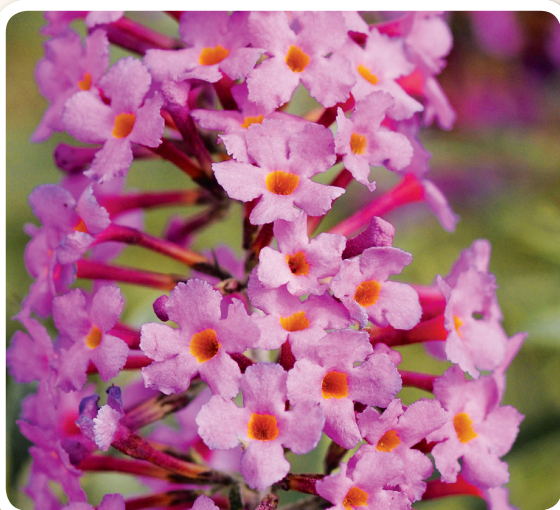
Clematis

The new clematis **Double Rose** ('Cleminov29') from Conard-Pyle Co. produces dark-purple buds that open to medium-light-lavender flowers with flashes of magenta along the center of each petal.

These star-shaped flowers are 4 inches in diameter and contain dark-pink to purple stamens. Blossoms eventually fade to light blue, and flowering period is June to September.

It's hardy to Zones 4-8, and full heat and cold testing is still in progress. In one year it reaches 2½ feet tall and wide, and mature size (in three years) is 3 feet high and wide. It's smaller and more contained in habit with a long bloom period, making it perfect for container sales.

Foliage is medium-green, resistant to mildew and slightly darker on the under-



Left: *Buddleia Flutterby Petite Lavender*. Right: *Centaurea 'Black Sprite'*.

sides. Use Double Rose as a small climber, in mass plantings, mixed with perennials or roses, as a groundcover and in a container or hanging basket.

Crape myrtles

Southern Living Plant Collection's new **Delta Jazz** crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* × 'Chocolate Mocha') is a small tree growing 6-8 feet high and 4-5 feet wide.

It produces bright, medium-pink flowers that contrast brilliantly with its unique, dark-burgundy cupped leaves. It's hardy to Zones 7-9 and grows best in full sun to part shade. It's a perfect example of a small flowering tree well-suited to urban landscapes. It can also be safely planted under utility lines.

McCorkle Nurseries' new **Red Rooster** crape myrtle was developed by Michael Dirr, *Nursery Management* contributing editor, formerly with the University of Georgia. It's a beautiful, mid-sized grower (8-10 feet tall at maturity) with large panicles of brilliant-red blossoms.

Its disease- and mildew-resistant foliage emerges maroon-red in spring and transitions into dark green.

Deadheading will encourage reblooming into fall. It's hardy to Zones 6-9.

This new red crape myrtle is definitely something to "crow" about.

Daylilies

Garden Debut announces a new series of long-blooming daylilies. The **Endless-Blooming** series represents

advances in flower color, disease resistance and an extended period of ornamental appeal.

They start blooming six to eight weeks before other daylilies, making them perfect for the spring retail rush. They will continue to bloom through summer.

Six varieties are currently available: **Aruba Red** (deep crimson); **Bahama Pink** (pink with red eye); **Caribbean Coral** (coral with gold eye); **Jamaica Sunrise** (lavender with yellow throat); **Kokomo Sunset** (gold with burgundy eye); and **Montego Melon** (clean yellow with apple-green center).

All Endless-Blooming varieties are resistant to daylily rust. They have grassy foliage and cleanly shed old blossoms. They're compact with short scapes, which means they're less likely to fall over in a 1-gallon container.

They're hardy to Zones 5-9 and grow best in full sun to partial shade. They were bred by Ted Petit of Le Petit Jardin in McIntosh, Fla.

Dianthus

Green Leaf Plants' **Early Bird** dianthus series features early-flowering varieties that are floriferous, fragrant and compact. They grow 6-7 inches tall with double flowers hardy to Zones 6-9.



Clematis Double Rose

Five colors are available: **Chili** (coral); **Fizzy** (lavender with dark-red eyes); **Frosty** (white); **Radiance** (deep red); and **Sherbet** (bright pink).

They're well suited for production in 4-inch and quart containers. Flowering typically begins with Chili, followed by Sherbet, Frosty, Radiance and Fizzy. Plant in full sun and they perform best in well-drained, somewhat alkaline (or lime-enriched) soils. Allow the soil to dry thoroughly between watering and deadhead for the best flower display.

These are vegetatively propagated, and only by licensed growers.

***Dianthus* hybrid Sugar Plum ('WP08 IAN04')** from PlantHaven produces beautiful sprays of fragrant, double blossoms. It's a repeat bloomer, and the flowers have wavy petals of maroon edged in pink-white.

Stems are very strong and the glaucous, blue-green foliage has a compact, mounding habit (10 inches by 10 inches). No vernalization period is required and the flower stems never flop. Deadhead and feed regularly to encourage faster repeat blooming.

This plant is perfect for borders and patio containers. From 128 plugs, they finish in 4½-inch (quart) pots in 8-10 weeks. In 6-inch or gallon pots, they finish in 10-16 weeks. Sugar Plum is hardy to Zone 5.



Top: Caribbean Coral daylily. Left: Delta Jazz crape myrtle. Right: Red Rooster crape myrtle.

Echinacea

Echinacea purpurea

'Little Annie' from Walters Gardens is the most dwarf coneflower variety introduced to date, reaching only 10-12 inches tall in full bloom at maturity.

It's a seedling of 'Kim's Knee High' discovered by Eric Stahlheber of Southernwood Gardens in Jonesboro, Ill.

From midsummer to early fall, the plant produces bright, lavender-pink flowers 2½ inches across with orange cones. It blooms prolifically, and deadheading prolongs the flowering period.

Plants are well branched with mid-green, linear leaves. It's well suited for front borders or patio pots. It spreads 8-12 inches and is

propagated via tissue culture.

It's hardy to Zones 3-8.

Plants Nouveau's new **'Marmalade'** coneflower has flowers the color of orange tart marmalade and produces stems stronger than any cultivar to date.

It's medium sized with fully double pompom blossoms. The light yellow-orange flowers have perfectly formed ray petals and a tufted bonnet of even deeper golden orange on top of the double cone.

Plants are vigorous and produce multiple buds per stem. Foliage is narrow, like one of its parents, *E. paradoxa*, but also deep-green and glossy.

Echinacea purpurea

'Raspberry Truffle,' also from Plants Nouveau, produces ray petals that are

deep salmon-pink, like a wild-caught sockeye salmon. The center of the cone begins chocolate brown and unfurls to reveal a very double, button top in the same salmon color as the ray petals mature.

The name is fitting, as when the flowers are developing, the chocolate center looks like a truffle in the middle of the blossom.

Stems are strong, thick and the color of dark chocolate. They hold up well and the flowers never flop. It has strong *E. purpurea* heritage, so the foliage is lush, thick and deep dark-green.

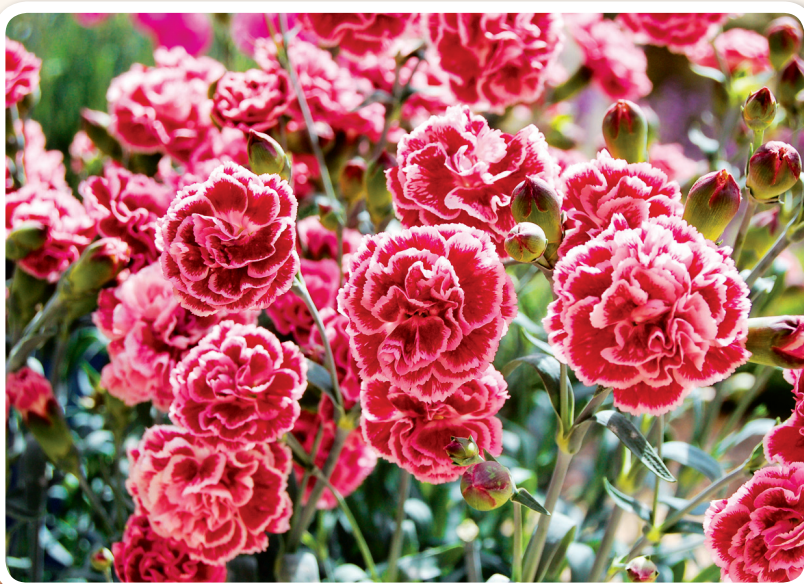
Plants are exceptionally bushy.

Gaillardia

***Gaillardia* 'Moxie'** is the latest member of Skagit Gardens' **Commotion series**. 'Moxie' sports golden-yellow, fluted petals with vivid orange centers.

The petal count is higher than other fluted forms, making it a substantial blossom set against its attractive foliage. Mounding in habit, it's ideal for a border, but compact enough for containers.

Long blooming and drought tolerant, it's hardy to Zone 5. It reaches 18-24 inches and bloom time is May through October.



Dianthus Sugar Plum

Gardenia

McCorkle Nurseries' **Pinwheel** gardenia creates a flurry of whimsical, fragrant blossoms that repeat from late spring through fall.

This exceptionally cold hardy variety (Zones 6a-9) extends the growing area for gardenias. Its compact 4-foot-by-4-foot size makes it an ideal choice as a specimen or patio container plant.

The glossy, evergreen foliage and intoxicating fragrant pinwheel-shaped flowers provide year-round interest. Pinwheel was developed by Michael Dirr.

Hellebore

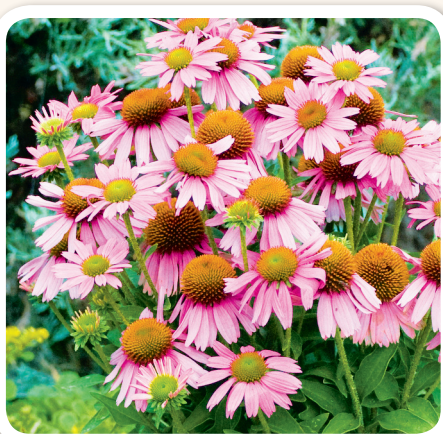
Helleborus Gold Collection Winter's Bliss from Skagit Gardens has rosy buds that open to creamy-white flowers. The flowers' dark-pink reverse sides make these blossoms a delight in the winter garden.

Flowers are large and forward-facing and leaves are handsome, shiny and dark green. Winter's Bliss is deer and disease resistant, and it's a long-lived evergreen perennial.

It's a vigorous addition to the Gold Collection and reaches 15-18 inches high. It blooms January to March and withstands Zone 5 winters.

Heuchera

Heuchera 'Stainless Steel' from Plants Nouveau has thick, celery-green leaves



Top: *Gaillardia* Commotion 'Moxie.' Left: *Echinacea* 'Little Annie.' Right: Pinwheel gardenia.

with an overlay of silver and bright egg-plant-purple undersides. The mixture of colors and textures gives this plant a multidimensional look.

It's heat and humidity tolerant and can withstand cold winters. Strong, 18-inch purple stems hold bloom stalks with 8 inches of sturdy, creamy-white bells. The blossoms are suitable as cut flowers.

'Stainless Steel' is ever-green, with new foliage emerging in April. When planted in more sunny areas, leaves get a mauve glow. But in full shade they truly show off their steely appearance. It thrives in a variety of moisture conditions and withstands heavy snow and direct sun.

Hydrangeas

Ball Horticultural Co.'s new *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Bombshell' is a garden breakthrough. Reaching

just 18-36 inches high and 36-48 inches wide, this tight new selection is perfect for small spaces.

It's incredibly well branched and is covered in white flowers from early summer to frost. The light-colored blossoms contrast nicely against the dark-green foliage. It produces more flowers per plant than any previous *H. paniculata* cultivar.

Little or no pruning is required to maintain the compact shape. It's hardy to -30°F and grows in both sun and shade.

A new dwarf form of the popular 'Limelight' hydrangea is now available. *H. paniculata* **Little Lime** ('Jane'), from Proven Winners ColorChoice, has the same great flowers and coloration as 'Limelight,' but comes in a smaller package.

It reaches 36-60 inches high and 48-72 inches wide. Summer flowers open soft

green and turn pink to burgundy in fall.

These plants are excellent for landscapes, containers and as cut flowers. They're deciduous, hardy to Zones 3-9 and bloom on new wood. Flower color is not affected by soil pH. It grows in part to full sun and is hardy to Zones 3-9.

It's an easy-care plant with average water requirements.

Mystical Flame ('Bokra-torch') from Novalis—an *H. paniculata*—is being released in 2011.

This variety is small in stature, reaching just 3-4 feet high. It produces creamy white panicles earlier than other *H. paniculata* varieties. The panicles change to burgundy red at the onset of cool weather and they maintain their ornamental appeal until frost.

Mystical Flame is a strong grower and continues to shine when other flowering shrubs have passed their blooming prime. It's hardy to Zones 5-9 and prefers full sun to part shade.



Left: Helleborus Gold Collection. Center: Heuchera 'Stainless Steel.' Right: Hydrangea paniculata 'Bombshell.'

Hypericum

A new St. John's wort series from Green Leaf Plants offers selections that feature a variety of berry colors. The **Hypericum Hypearls** series includes **Hypearls Jessica** (cream), **Hypearls Jacqueline** (red), **Hypearls Olivia** (salmon) and **Hypearls Renu** (pink).

One-inch bright-yellow flowers are produced in July and berries persist into fall. Plants are hardy to Zone 5 and excellent in container gardens. They're heat loving, well branched, vigorous and grow 25-36 inches tall, depending on variety. Plant in full sun, and they perform best in fertile, well-drained, evenly moist soils. Protect from cold, drying winds and prune back in early spring for the best flower display.

Itea

Chicagoland Grows' new **Itea virginica Scarlet Beauty** ('Morton') has superior tolerance to alkaline soils, giving the plant deeper green foliage than any other sweetspire on the market. It's also hardier and can be grown dependably in Zone 4, compared to just Zone 5 or 6 for the species.

Partial tip dieback has been the only winter injury ever observed during a lengthy trial period at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Scarlet Beauty reaches 3-4 feet tall and wide, and will slowly spread over time as it suckers.

White flowers are densely borne on droopy, 3-inch inflorescences produced mid-June to early July. The flowers have a faint but

pleasing fragrance. The deep, orange-red fall foliage peaks in early November and lasts through a very hard frost.

It grows best in moist sites in sun or shade.

Kalanchoe

From Overdevest Nurseries' Footprints brand comes **Kalanchoe thyrsiflora 'Fantastic'**. Developed by Hawaiian Sunshine Nursery, this perennial features dramatic foliage with red edging, intermixed with creamy and golden highlights.

It's easy to grow, robust and drought tolerant, growing 24 inches tall and wide. This tender perennial is hardy to Zone 9 and prefers full sun and fast-draining, porous soils rich with organic matter.

It is great for window boxes, container gardens on decks, patios, swimming pool surrounds or pots by the front door. Positioned just about anywhere, it truly makes a 'Fantastic' display.

Maple

Following the company's long tradition of introducing excellent shade trees to the horticultural market, J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co. has introduced **Autumn Fest** ('JFS-KW8') sugar maple.

This *Acer saccharum* has a strong, upright growth habit and produces reliable, early



Itea virginica Scarlet Beauty

orange-red to red fall color. It's a standout in the nursery or in streetscapes. It's fast growing with a strong central leader, and has a more upright shape than typical sugar maples.

It's hardy to Zone 4 and reaches 50 feet high and 35 feet wide. It has an upright, oval shape and summer foliage is dark green.

Nandina

Southern Living Plant Collection's *Nandina domestica* **Obsession** ('Seika') is a distinct new variety. It's an upright, compact, dense grower with brilliant red new foliage – much richer than ordinary nandinas.

Foliage matures to a deep green. It's moderate to fast growing and performs best in well drained soils.

It's hardy to Zones 6-10 and prefers full sun to part shade. Mature height is 3-4 feet tall.

Peonies

Monrovia's new **Misaka Itoh peony** (*Paeonia lactiflora* × 'Smith Opus 1') has extremely large flowers – up to 8 inches in diameter. They appear orange when first opening (rare among intersectional hybrids) and fade to beautiful peach yellow in full sun.

Once open, flowers are yellow flushed with pink with a mild, pleasant fragrance. Large contrasting dark-red central flares are extremely prominent.



Top: Nandina Obsession. Left: Autumn Fest maple. Right: Hypericum Hypearls Olivia. Bottom Right: Kalanchoe thrysiflora 'Fantastic.'

Misaka is Japanese for beautiful blossom. It is hardy to Zones 3-8.

Monrovia's Itoh peonies were named for Toichi Itoh, the first hybridizer to successfully cross a tree peony with an herbaceous peony. They feature huge flowers and lush, green, disease-resistant foliage.

As plants mature, they produce secondary buds. Itoh peonies also feature strong stems, making them excellent cut flowers.

Also from Monrovia, **Takara Itoh peony** (*P. lactiflora* x 'Smith Opus 2') has flowers that reach 6 inches across. They provide an unusual and exquisite ever-changing blend of colors.

When opening, blossoms

appear mostly pink, but are actually light yellow heavily flushed with deep lavender pink. As flowers mature, the pink and yellow fade to pale white with a large, dark-burgundy flare in the center. Flowers appear early May through end of June. Takara is Japanese for treasure. The plant is hardy to Zones 3-8.

Perovskia

Ball Horticultural Co. has introduced a new, compact Russian sage to the market.

Perovskia atriplicifolia 'Lacey Blue' reaches just 31-35 inches tall and 18-20 inches wide.

It also produces the largest flowers of any Russian sage variety, appearing in profusion from July to August.

It's an easy-to-grow, water-

thrifty perennial that also produces fragrant foliage. It's excellent in landscape borders on in large or mixed containers.

It grows best in full sun and is hardy to -30°F.

Quince

Proven Winners Color-Choice's new ***Chaenomes speciosa*** **Double Take** ('Scarlet Storm') is an exciting new quince that produces spectacular displays of large, red, double flowers. They actually look more like camellia blossoms than traditional quince flowers.

The flowers are produced in early spring and the plant reaches 36-48 inches tall and 48-60 inches wide. They're well suited for back or middle borders, and can also be grown in large containers.

These deciduous plants are drought resistant once established, thornless, deer resistant and do not set fruit.

Double Take was developed by Tom Ranney at the North Carolina Mountain Horticultural Crops Research & Extension Center.

It's hardy to Zones 5-8 and can be sheared into any shape, including hedgerows.

Redbud

Cercis canadensis 'Ruby Falls' from Plant Haven is being introduced through Greenleaf Nurseries. It's the



Takara Itoh peony

first weeping redbud variety on the market with purple leaves.

Along with its elegant habit, 'Ruby Falls' has excellent branching. It will eventually reach 6 feet high and 4 feet wide. Plant as a specimen or in groups. It's an excellent small tree for lawns, woodland gardens and naturalized areas. Minimal pruning is needed.

It's hardy to Zone 6, produces rose-purple flowers in spring and has low pod set. It grows best in part shade with adequate moisture and well-drained soils. Approximate finish time in a 5-gallon pot is two years from a whip and three years from a whip in 15-gallon pots.

'Ruby Falls' was selected by Denny Werner at North Carolina State University.

Rhododendron

With distinctive, true-yellow flowers with red blotches, ***Rhododendron* 'Holden's Solar Flair'** is a sight to see. This hybrid also has *R. catawbiense*, which adds cold hardiness to the pedigree. It's available through Briggs Plant Propagators.

This plant was developed by David Leach and its parents include Calcutta, Casanova and Goldsworth Orange.

'Holden's Solar Flair' reaches a mature size of 4 feet high by 3 feet wide. It's hardy to Zone 5 and grows best in part sun to part



Top: 'Lacey Blue' perovskia. Left: Cercis 'Ruby Falls.' Right: Quince Scarlet Storm.

shade. Provide adequate moisture and well-drained, organic soils. It's suitable for mixed borders, mass plantings, informal hedges and as a specimen plant.

Roses

Icy Drift ('Meipicdevoj') is the newest Drift variety from Conard-Pyle. It has small, pure-white, 1-inch double flowers that are produced continuously from late spring to frost. The blossoms are borne abundantly in large clusters.

Foliage is glossy medium-green and exceptionally disease resistant.

This groundcover rose reaches just 1½ feet tall and spreads 2½ feet. Its habit is mounding to spreading and very vigorous.

It's hardy to Zones 5-10.

Conard-Pyle's **Milwaukee's Calatrava ('Rad-fragwhite')** is a landscape shrub rose that produces pure-white double flowers (sometimes light-pink flowers, depending on the season).

The cup-like blossoms are 3 inches in diameter, very fragrant (a hint of lemon verbenas) and have petal counts of 25-30. The plant is vigorous, upright and bushy. Foliage is dark green with bluish undertones. It's resistant to blackspot, powdery mildew and reaches 4 feet high and 3 feet wide.

It was bred by Bill Radler of Knock Out fame, and named to honor the new Milwaukee Art Museum, designed by renowned archi-

tect Santiago Calatrava.

Rubber tree

A new hardy rubber tree, ***Eucommia ulmoides* Emerald Pointe ('Empozam')** from LCN Selections, has a dramatic columnar habit. It grows 40 feet high and spreads only 5 feet.

It's perfect for tight, urban spaces. It's a tough plant, performing in difficult conditions including drought and excess moisture.

The foliage is hunter green and half the size of the species. Leaves are wavy and attractively serrated with a thick texture.

The tree is seedless and hardy to Zone 5.

Salvia

Conard-Pyle Co.'s new perennial salvia **'Golden Girl'** produces pale-yellow flowers from May to October and is sturdy, dense and compact.

It reaches 10-12 inches high and wide and is hardy to Zones 7-11. Hardiness trials are in progress, and it may be able to withstand colder climates. It grows best in full sun and can be produced on the dry side.

Transplant 30-cell liners into 1-gallon containers (one per pot). Provide



Icy Drift rose

porous, well-drained soils. It performs best when pinched once when transplanted. When actively growing, plants grow best with a constant liquid feed of 150 parts per million nitrogen.

It has no common pest or disease problems, and can be pinched once or twice when planted in the landscape to encourage better branching.

Solidago

***Solidago* 'Solar Cascade'** from North Creek Nurseries produces reliable, deep-green, glossy foliage that remains clean throughout the growing season.

This goldenrod is not an aggressive runner. It's a clump-forming perennial that reaches knee high, maxing out somewhere between the taller 'Fireworks' and the more compact 'Golden Fleece.'

It produces golden-yellow flowers in axillary clusters along reflexing stems. It's exceptionally drought tolerant once established.

It's hardy to Zones 3-8. Plant en masse for a dramatic effect or incorporate into seasonal arrangements.

Veronica

Chicagoland Grows introduced **'Whitewater' veronica**, discovered by John Wachter at Elite Growers Inc., in Ingleside, Ill. It's a white-flowered branch sport that emerged from a batch of 'Watersperry Blue.'

The flower color has been



Top: Salvia 'Golden Girl.' Left: *Eucommia* Emerald Pointe branching. Right: 'Holden's Solar Flair' rhododendron. Bottom Right: Solidago 'Solar Cascade.'

stable through years of propagation cycles and three years of field trials. At the Chicago Botanic Garden, plants bloom from April to late June, peaking in mid May. The flowers are ½-inch wide and glistening white.

It forms a dense, low carpet, growing 4-6 inches tall and spreading 12-18 inches in a single season. Over time, it can cover a more expansive area.

It's dense enough to suppress weeds and tolerates some foot traffic. The glossy, dark-green leaves are produced on creeping, wiry stems. Foliage turns attractive burgundy to bronze in winter and is evergreen in mild climates.

It's an excellent groundcover or rock garden plant, and will cascade over walls

or boulders. It's deer resistant and hardy to Zones 4-7. It grows in sun to partial shade and medium to dry soils are recommended.

Viola

North Creek Nurseries introduces its new ***Viola walteri*** 'Silver Gem.' This new selection of the native species makes a tough yet beautiful groundcover.

It features trailing stems and delicate lavender flowers. It creates a dense, tidy mat of attractive silver foliage.

Flowers appear in March and persist until autumn. North Creek trials have proven 'Silver Gem' to be exceptionally drought tolerant and best suited for part to full shade.

Plants grow 2-4 inches high and 12-18 inches wide. They are hardy to Zones 5-8.

Weigela

Novalis' ***Weigela Rainbow Sensation*** ('Kolmagira') is a fascinating new variegated form. Before the first flowers appear, this shrub still lights up the landscape with its leaves containing dark-green centers and chartreuse margins.

The plant also produces clusters of soft-pink, funnel-shaped flowers that bloom in profusion in May. Gently arching stems add grace to the garden with a rainbow of color on this compact shrub. Stems can be cut for flower arrangements.

A tough plant, weigela is especially suited for urban environments where it performs beautifully with minimal care. Extremely hardy, plants thrive in a wide range of growing conditions.

It's hardy to Zones 4-8 and grows 4 feet high. It grows in full sun and prefers moist, well-drained soils. 🌱



Left: Veronica 'Whitewater.' Center: Viola 'Silver Gem.' Right: Weigela Rainbow Sensation.



Left: *H. paniculata* Mystical Flame.
Right: *Echinacea* 'Marmalade'



Contacts:

Ball Horticultural Co., www.ballhort.com.

Blooms of Bressingham, www.bloomsofbressinghamplants.com; (800) 321-9573.

Briggs Plant Propagators, www.briggsnursery.com; (800) 444-1515.

Chicagoland Grows, www.chicagolandgrows.org; (847) 835-8244.

Conard-Pyle Co., www.conard-pyle.com; (610) 869-2426.

Garden Debut, www.gardendebut.com; (877) 663-5053.

Garden Splendor, www.gardensplendor.com; (888) 842-6567.

Greenleaf Nurseries, www.greenleafnursery.com; (800) 331-2982.

Green Leaf Plants, www.glplants.com; (800) 321-9573.

J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co., www.jfschmidt.com; (503) 663-4128.

LCN Selections, maria.zampini@yahoo.com; (440) 812-3249.

McCorkle Nurseries, www.mccorklenurseries.com; (800) 572-2874.

Monrovia, www.monrovia.com; (800) 999-9321.

North Creek Nurseries, www.northcreeknurseries.com; (877) 326-7584.

Novalis, www.plantsthatwork.com.

Overdevest Nurseries, www.gardensplendor.com; (888) 842-6567.

PlantHaven, www.planthaven.com; (805) 569-9179.

Plants Nouveau, www.plantsnouveau.com; (410) 858-0577.

Proven Winners ColorChoice, www.provenwinners.com; (877) 865-5818.

Southern Living Plant Collection, www.southernlivingplants.com.

Skagit Gardens, www.skagitgardens.com; (360) 424-6144.

Tesselaar Plants, www.tesselaar.com; (310) 349-0714.

Walters Gardens, www.waltersgardens.com; (888) 925-8377.

