

New Plants *for* 2011

PLANTS ARE sizing down, growing straight up, and taking on brilliant new hues in 2011, while home gardeners are snapping up edibles and opting for containers overflowing with plants of every type. It may take plant breeders a bit of time to catch up with gardeners' inclinations, but new plant introductions for 2011 demonstrate that growers, despite a difficult economy, are getting the message.

One of the hottest new trends taking hold all over the country is vertical gar-

Edible, compact, upright, and colorful are the themes of this year's new plant introductions.

BY JANE BERGER

tural shift rather than just a trend. "People want to have edibles as part of their garden," he says, "so what we're starting to see is edibles being used as ornamentals."

Dan Heims, president of Terra Nova Nurseries in Oregon, says that during tough economic times, "people are looking for value." Thus new introductions of workhorse perennials such as coral bells (*Heuchera* spp.), daylilies (*Hemerocallis* spp.), and coneflowers (*Echinacea* spp.) continue to be popular, he says, because they have long seasons of interest, are easy to grow, and, in the case of coneflowers, make excellent cut flowers.

Ryan McGrath, marketing director at Spring Meadow Nursery, which develops shrubs for the Proven Winners marketing consortium, says breeders continue to focus on shrubs that are smaller, easy to care for, and have flowers and interesting foliage through as many seasons as possible. "We're trying to find miniaturized versions of shrubs we know are successful and consumers demand," he says.

Here are some of the plants that represent the new directions in gardening in the coming year.

VEGETABLES AND FRUITS

If you like vibrant colors, try adding some vegetables to your ornamental garden this year. Blazek says anything that gives gardeners "bragging rights," like a purple carrot, is popular because it's something "you can't buy in a supermarket." So you might want to try magenta-fleshed 'Watermelon' heirloom radishes from Renee's Garden or deep purple 'Amethyst' dwarf stringless beans from Thompson & Morgan.



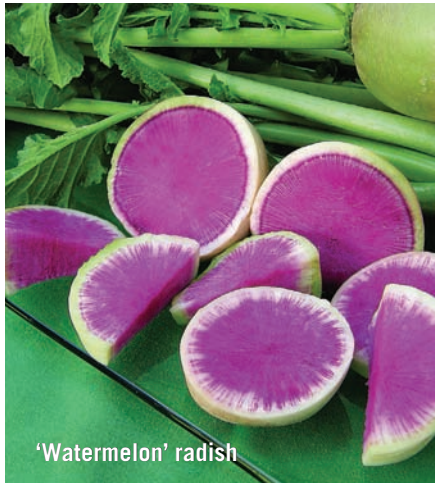
'Pink Lemonade' blueberry

dening, according to Diane Blazek, executive director of the National Gardening Bureau. Because people don't have the space, she says, they want plants that will grow five or six feet up rather than wide. Landscape designers and public gardens all over the country are installing vertical walls bursting with texture and color; the largest one in the country, at 3,590 square feet, recently opened at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania.

The local food movement and the growth of farmers markets in many communities continue to spur extraordinary interest in edible plants of all kinds. Nicholas Staddon, the director of new plant introductions at Monrovia Growers, says the continued popularity of organic gardening and food plants signals a cul-



'Orange Wellington' tomato



'Watermelon' radish



'Kalibos' cabbage

From Johnny's Selected Seeds comes 'Defiant PhR', a new tomato bred to be resistant to the fungal diseases that have ravaged tomato crops the last couple of years. This mid-size tomato is highly resistant to late blight and somewhat resistant to early blight. The six- to eight-ounce, deep red, globe-shaped fruits are medium-firm with good texture and flavor.

Tomato lovers may also want to try 'Orange Wellington' from Ball Horticultural and W. Atlee Burpee. This colorful, 12-ounce, mid-season indeterminate variety is nearly seedless.

A compact fennel, 'Orion', from Cook's Garden, is a must for small households. Cook's is also offering a unique red-colored 'Kalibos' cabbage that can be planted in spring for a late-summer and fall harvest.

Blueberries are among the stars of the new edible revival, hence one of Monrovia's top new plants is Bountiful Blue® blueberry, (*Vaccinium corymbosum* 'FLX-2', Zones 5-9, 9-1), which has blue-tinged foliage and bears loads of large, sweet

berries. Monrovia's Nicholas Staddon says this three- to four-foot-tall plant makes a perfect hedge because the evergreen foliage takes on a purple-pink color in autumn.

If you are looking for neighborhood bragging rights, be the first on your block to grow the 'Pink Lemonade' blueberry (Zones 4-8, 8-1), which has true pink berries that have a sweeter flavor than the standard fruits. Developed through the USDA's breeding program, this hybrid blueberry is being released through wholesale Briggs Nursery in Washington. It grows four to five feet tall and about as wide.

Another option is Blue Suede®, a new hybrid blueberry for Zones 6 to 9, 9 to 1 from Gardener's Confidence Collection. Though it blooms later than other varieties, fruits ripen sooner. It grows three to five feet tall and wide and has fiery fall color.

TREES AND SHRUBS

If you're in the market for a shade tree, the Emerald City™ tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera* 'JFS-Oz', Zones 5-9, 9-2) from J. Frank Schmidt Nursery in Boring, Oregon, is one to consider. An upright grower, it tops out at 50 to 60 feet with a 25-foot spread. Its foliage is darker green and glossier than the typical native trees found in eastern forests, turning golden yellow in fall. Although introduced a few years ago, it is only now becoming readily available at the retail level.

A petite tree with exciting potential is Rising Sun™ redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'JN2', Zones 5-9, 9-2), released through Garden Debut. The heart-shaped foliage ranges in color from lemon-yellow to

apricot or orange, holding its color into autumn. Growing to 12 feet tall and slightly broader, it bears the typical fuchsia-colored redbud flowers on bare branches in early spring.

For western gardeners, Lucretia Hamilton™ desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*, Zones 6-10, 10-6) is a hummingbird magnet selected for its naturally compact habit. Discovered by Ron Gass of Mountain States Nursery and offered through High Country Gardens in Santa Fe, New Mexico, it provides a long-blooming summer display of burgundy-red flowers. It grows to the lower extent of its size—12 to 18 feet high and wide—in USDA Zone 6.

Proven Winners' Little Lime™ panicked hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Jane', Zones 3-8, 8-1) is a dwarf version of the brand's popular 'Limelight' selection. It grows only three to five feet high and wide, with the same upright, long-



Rising Sun™ redbud



Chilopsis linearis Lucretia Hamilton™



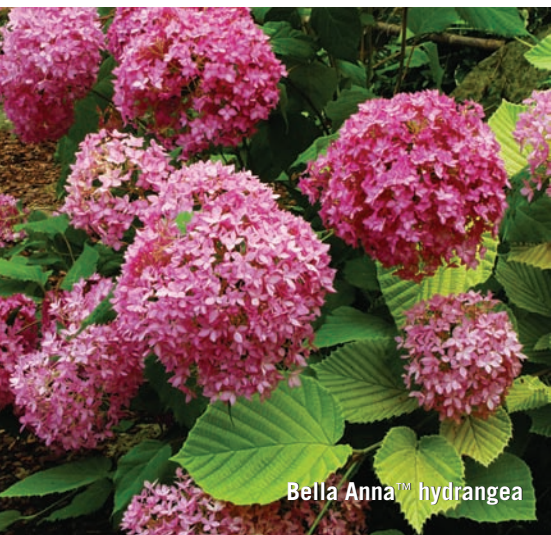
Hydrangea paniculata Little Lime



Juniperus horizontalis 'Gold Strike'

flowering lime-green blooms that eventually fade to pink. Suitable for a container, it could light up a small deck or patio.

If you have room for another hydrangea, Bailey Nurseries is introducing Bella Anna™ (*Hydrangea arborescens* 'PIIHA-1', Zones 4–9, 9–1), a pink-flowered mophead that is part of the re-



Bella Anna™ hydrangea

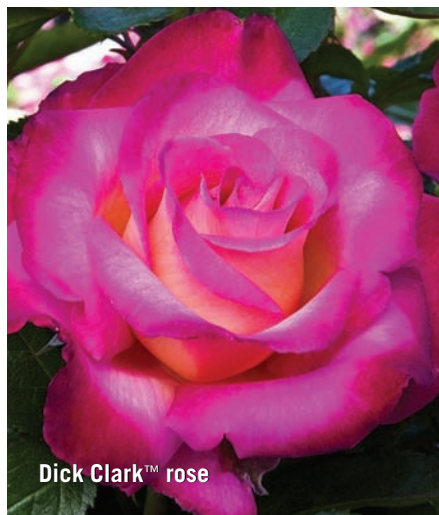
blooming Endless Summer® line. Growing three to five feet tall and wide, it bears magenta-pink clusters of flowers from midsummer into fall.

In the conifer department, a few selections from Iseli Nursery in Oregon are finally reaching garden centers across the country in substantial numbers. Among these is 'Niagara Falls', a ground-hugging, cascading sport of the familiar weeping white pine (*Pinus strobus*, Zones 3–8, 8–1).

I fell in love with this selection when I visited Iseli a couple of years ago. Discovered in 1998 by Mike and Ken Yeager of Hickory Hollow Nursery in New York, its name aptly describes its flowing habit. Another Iseli winner is 'Gold Strike', a dwarf juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*, Zones 3–9, 9–1) with a spreading habit and brilliant chartreuse needles spring through fall that take on coral tones later in the year.

ROSES

Roses have just been getting better and better in recent years, and the new ones for 2011 are no exception. Tom Carruth, director of research and marketing for Weeks Roses, says breeders are focusing on disease resistance, fragrance, and "floriferous plants." For 2011, Weeks is introducing another of its steady stream



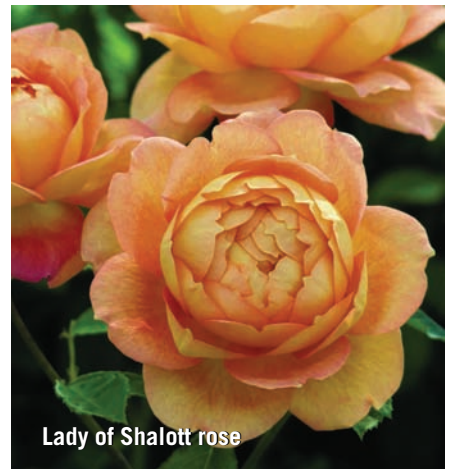
Dick Clark™ rose

of All-America Rose Selections (AARS) winners, a grandiflora type called Dick Clark™ (*Rosa* 'WEKfunk', Zones 6–9, 9–1). Its flowers open white with a pink edge, then begin to blush when the sun hits the petals, finishing up with a deep burgundy color.

Proven Winners has picked up a Weeks rose called Home Run® (*Rosa* 'WEKcisbako', Zones 4–9, 9–1) for 2011. This shrub rose has single scarlet blooms, excellent black spot and mildew resistance, and "a capacity to bloom and bloom," according to Carruth. He warns against deadheading, however, lest you snip off the forthcoming flowers.

Jackson & Perkins introduced this year's second AARS winner, Walking on Sunshine™ (*Rosa* 'Jacmady', Zones 6–9, 9–1), a vigorous and disease-tolerant floribunda rose with ruffled, banana-yellow flowers that exude a mild anise scent. It grows to about four feet tall and wide.

David Austin's five new roses include Lady of Shalott (*Rosa* 'Ausnyson', Zones



Lady of Shalott rose

5–9, 9–5), which the company considers one of the best roses it has ever produced. Early buds are orange-red, opening to chalice-shaped apricot blooms. Each petal is salmon-pink on the upper side and golden yellow underneath. Flowers have a tea fragrance with hints of clove and spiced apple and are borne atop a bushy shrub with slightly arching stems.

VINES AND CLIMBERS

For those looking to enhance the vertical dimension, Monrovia is introducing two new sausage vines (*Holboellia* spp.) as part of the Dan Hinkley Collection of noteworthy plants discovered by the renowned



plant explorer. *Holboellia coriacea* 'Cathedral Gem' (Zones 6–10, 10–6) is an easy-to-grow, evergreen vine with glossy green leaves and clusters of highly perfumed flowers in late winter and early spring. It was found growing on the wall of Winchester Cathedral in Britain. *Holboellia latifolia* 'Ritak' (Zones 6–10, 10–6) flowers from early to late spring, with purple-lavender, cinnamon-scented, fuchsialike blooms followed by fleshy lavender-pink fruits. Hinkley located it in a remote corner of northeastern Nepal.



From the American Beauties collection (a grower consortium that includes North Creek Nurseries in Landenberg, Pennsylvania), comes a new cultivar of the Kentucky wisteria (*Wisteria macrostachya* 'Blue Moon', 3–9, 9–3). Much less aggressive than the Asian wisterias, this American native selection grows to 25 feet high with fragrant, lavender-blue flower clusters.

Introduced by Novalis, Madame Rosy® trumpet vine (*Campsis* 'HOMR', Zones 5–9, 9–6) is a hybrid between the native

Campsis radicans and Asian *C. grandiflora*. Growing 15 to 25 feet tall, it bears clusters of salmon-rose, trumpet-shaped flowers from May to September. Vines don't form seedpods, so flowering is continuous.

PERENNIALS AND GRASSES

Perennials are riding out the economic downturn with strong sales of plants that provide value in terms of vigor, long bloom, vibrant colors, knockout foliage, and texture.

Dan Heims of Terra Nova Nurseries, known for his penchant for flamboyant colors, doesn't disappoint with *Heuchera* 'Midnight Bayou' (Zones 4–9, 9–1), a stunning heat-tolerant plant with iridescent purple leaves over a black background. Gardeners would be at a loose end without at least one new coneflower introduction, so Heims obliges with *Echinacea* 'Flame Thrower' (Zones 4–9, 9–1), distinguished by bright orange flowers that make a real statement when massed.

Over the last couple of years, Blooms of Bressingham has been releasing penstemon selections developed through the University of Nebraska's highly regarded breeding program. A promising new one is *Penstemon* 'Sweet Joanne' (Zones 5–8, 8–5), which grows to two feet tall with

Wholesale Nurseries/Marketing Consortia

Visit these companies' websites to locate retail sources for their plants.

American Beauties, www.abnativeplants.com.
Anthony Tesselaar Plants, www.tesselaar.com.
Bailey Nurseries, www.bailynurseries.com.
Ball Horticultural Co., www.ballhort.com.
Blooms of Bressingham, www.bloomsofbressingham.com.
Garden Debut, www.gardendebut.com.
Gardener's Confidence Collection, www.gardenersconfidence.com.
Iseli Nursery, www.iseli-nursery.com.
Jackson & Perkins, www.jacksonandperkins.com.
J. Frank Schmidt, www.jfschmidt.com.
Monrovia, www.monrovia.com.
Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, www.mswm.com.
Novalis, www.novalis.com.
PlantHaven, www.planthaven.com.
Proven Winners, www.provenwinners.com.
Southern Living Plant Collection, www.southernlivingplants.com.

Spring Meadows Nursery, www.springmeadowsnursery.com.
Terra Nova Nurseries, www.terravanurseries.com.
Weeks Roses, www.weeksroses.com.

Retail Sources

The Cook's Garden, Warminster, PA. (800) 457-9703. www.cooksgarden.com.
David Austin Roses, Tyler, TX. (800) 328-8893. www.davidaustinroses.com.
High Country Gardens, Santa Fe, NM. (800) 925-9387. www.highcountrygardens.com.
Johnny's Selected Seeds, Winslow, ME. (877) 564-6697. www.johnnyseeds.com.
Renee's Garden, Felton, CA. (888) 880-7228. www.reneesgarden.com.
Seeds of Change, www.seedsofchange.com.
Thompson & Morgan, Jackson, NJ. (800) 274-7333. www.tmseeds.com.
W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Warminster, PA. (800) 333-5808. www.burpee.com.



Echinacea 'Flame Thrower'

pale lavender-pink, trumpet-shaped flowers in midsummer.

Native plant fans will also treasure a new baneberry (*Actaea pachypoda* 'Misty Blue', Zones 3–8, 8–1) discovered at the Mt. Cuba Center in Delaware. It has white spring flowers that are followed by the doll's-eye fruit set off by red stalks in fall. The fruits are poisonous if eaten, so this is not a good choice if young children frequent your garden. It grows two to three feet tall and wide in part shade.

Monrovia is releasing two new Itoh intersectional peonies—Misaka™ Beautiful Blossom ('Smith Opus 1') and Takara™ Treasure ('Smith Opus 2'), both Zones 3–8, 8–1. These hybrids resulted from crosses between herbaceous and tree peonies by the late Japanese hybridizer Toichi Itoh. They have huge, almost eight-inch-diameter blooms that make magnificent cut flowers. They also offer an intense sweet scent, disease resistance, and a five- to six-week blooming cycle.

High Country Gardens is introducing 'Blonde Ambition', a new selection of the native blue grama grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*, Zones 4–9, 9–4) that bears chartreuse flowers on two- to three-foot stems.

Another grasslike beauty is *Carex oshimensis* Everest ('Fiwhite', Zones 6–9, 9–1), a Japanese sedge selection that came



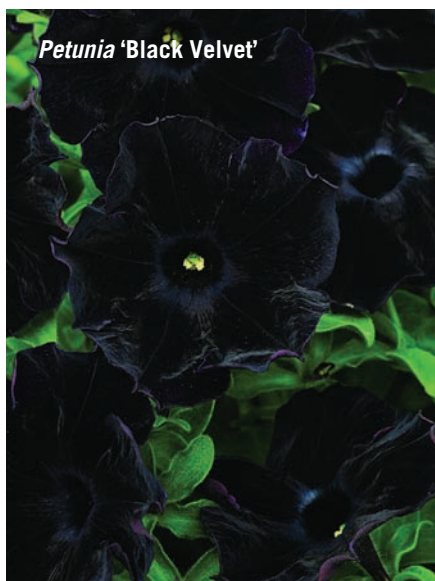
Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'

out in limited release in 2010 and now is available through Anthony Tesselaar Plants. Fountainlike clumps of the white-and-green striped foliage make elegant groundcovers or container specimens in sun or part shade.

ANNUALS AND TENDER PLANTS

You have to wonder what's going on when two companies claim to have the "world's only black petunia." If you'd like to decide for yourself, try both 'Black Velvet' petunia from Ball Horticultural and W. Atlee Burpee's 'Black Cat', which is reported to have great disease resistance and vigor.

Ball Horticultural is releasing two new coleus selections with "wow" potential—Versa™ Crimson Gold and Redhead,



Petunia 'Black Velvet'

both suited to sun or shade. Redhead—a bright red color with a velvety texture—grows 18 to 24 inches tall; Crimson Gold which has deep red leaves lined in golden green, is slightly taller. Both are spectacular in containers or borders.

From Proven Winners, there are two new Superbells® *Calibrachoa*: the vibrant dark purple 'Blackberry Punch' and 'Coralberry Punch', which has coral-colored blooms with burgundy throats. I also liked the 'Gold Dust' *Mecardonia*, a great choice for filling in those bare garden spaces with cheerful yellow flowers that bloom from May to October.

A dwarf with a tight, rounded habit and a spread of only 12 inches, *Abutilon* 'Lucky Lantern Tangerine' from PlantHaven is



Calibrachoa 'Blackberry Punch'

suitable for summer containers. And from Anthony Tesselaar Plants, there are two new offerings in the popular Bonfire® begonia series with dark chocolate leaves—one with red-orange flowers (Choc Red) and the other with pink blooms (Choc Pink). Both grow to 20 inches tall, making perfect container or hanging basket specimens.

Only time will tell which of these plants become garden classics, but there's certainly more than enough choice for you to find something interesting to try wherever you garden.

Jane Berger is a landscape designer and writer based in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. She blogs at gardendesigonline.com.

ADDITIONAL SELECTIONS FOR 2011

Vegetables

'Apollo' broccoli

This cross between a sprouting or calabrese-type broccoli and kale produces tender stems and ruffled leaves; the floral side shoots can be harvested continuously. (W. Atlee Burpee & Co.)



'Apollo' broccoli

'Pixie' cabbage

Ideal for small households, this diminutive cabbage is softball-sized at harvest. (Renee's Garden)

'Salt and Pepper' cucumber

A disease-resistant, organically grown, pickling cucumber (three to five inches long) with white skin and black spines. (Johnny's Selected Seeds)

Annuals and Tender Perennials

Ganna Tropicanna® Black

('LonOl' canna)

Striking purple/black foliage and bright orange flowers on a four- to six-foot plant. Zones 7–11, 12–1. (Anthony Tesselaar Plants)

Petunia Phantom

('Balpephan' petunia)

A vigorous grower with flowers that have a cream-colored, star-shape pattern surrounded by black. (Ball Horticultural)



Tropaeolum majus 'Buttercream'

Tropaeolum majus 'Buttercream'

(nasturtium)

Two-tone pastel-yellow flowers grace this mounding heirloom nasturtium. (Renee's Garden)

Perennials and Grasses

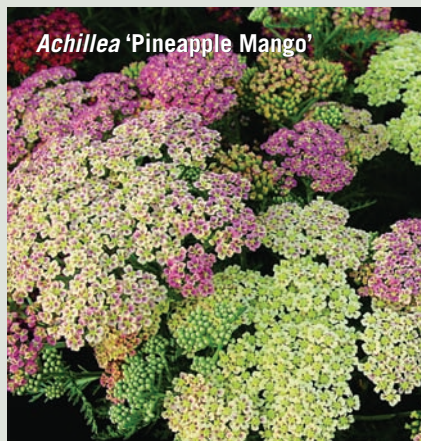
Achillea 'Pineapple Mango'

The flowerheads on this yarrow mature from rich pink to yellow-salmon to pale primrose yellow. Zones 4–8, 8–1. (Blooms of Bressingham)

Amsonia ciliata 'Spring Sky'

(threadleaf bluestar)

A compact bluestar (to two feet) with sky-blue spring flowers and bright yellow fall foliage. Zones 4–9, 9–4. (American Beauties)



Achillea 'Pineapple Mango'

Hemerocallis Kokomo Sunset™

('SPd 06-02' daylily)

One of five new selections in the Enjoy 24/7 series, this reblooming daylily has ruffled yellow flowers with a red-blushed center. Zones 5–9, 9–5. (Garden Debut)

Iberis Absolutely Amethyst™

('IB2401' candytuft)

This hardy groundcover has lavender flowers. Zones 4–9, 9–4. (Proven Winners)

Sedum 'Elsie's Gold'

Variegated foliage (silver, green, and gold) contrast with shell-pink flowers that age to deep magenta by fall. Zones 3–9, 9–3. (PlantHaven)

Trees, Shrubs, and Climbers

Chaenomeles speciosa Double Take™

('Orange Storm' flowering quince)

Growing three to five feet tall and wide, this shrub has extra-large, brilliant orange-red double flowers in early spring. Zones 5–9, 9–5. (Proven Winners)

Juniperus scopulorum First Editions®

Sky High ('Bailigh' juniper)

A small, columnar juniper with dense silver blue foliage. Grows 12 feet high and three to five feet wide. Zones 3–7, 8–3. (Bailey Nurseries)

Lagerstroemia Diamond Dazzle

('PIILAG-I' crape myrtle)

This dwarf crape myrtle grows three to five feet tall and wide and bears white flowers from late summer to fall. Zones 6–9, 9–6. (Gardener's Confidence Collection)

Rosa Purple Splash™

('WEKspitrib' rose)

A relatively thorn-free climber to 12 feet. Apple-scented, wine-purple flowers are streaked and stippled in white. Zones 5–9, 9–5. (Weeks Roses)