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black beauties

Add some drama to your garden with black. One of the hottest trends in landscape design, black plants are more common than you might think. Here are five favorites that caught our eye.



1. Coral Bells

Heuchera • Zones 3 to 9

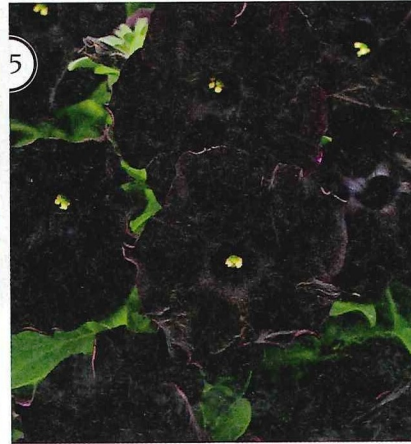
Though some coral bells cultivars have brightly colored blooms, it's the black foliage that takes the spotlight in varieties such as Moonlight and Obsidian. Use coral bells as edging or in containers in shady or sun-drenched spots.

2. Black Mondo Grass

Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens' •

Zones 6 to 10

Few plants are as dark in color as Mondo grass. This spiky 6-inch-tall plant is stunning



in a border and doesn't demand much work: It's heat- and drought-tolerant. The onyx color beautifully complements colorful plants nearby.

3. Primrose

Primula x polyantha • Zones 5 to 10

As winter turns to spring, little blooms appear on these compact dark-green plants. Eye-catching Victoriana Silver Lace Black boasts white-edged petals and a golden-yellow center. The primrose does best in partial shade, but can live in full sun if the soil around it remains moist.



4. Viola

Viola cornuta • annual

Also known as horned violet, the fragrant, low-maintenance viola tolerates sun and partial shade and blooms most profusely in cool weather. The Sorbet Black Delight cultivar is a winning choice.

5. Petunia

Petunia x hybrida • annual

Give a warm welcome to the world's first black petunia, Black Velvet. Introduced by Ball Horticultural Company, it's a perfect fit for containers and thrives in sunny areas.