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Pick latest fashionable flowers for Mom

BY DENNY MCKEOWN • ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR • MAY 1, 2010

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As Mother's Day approaches, patio pots, hanging baskets, window boxes or flats of summer annuals might be at the top of the "what to get Mom" list to thank her for all the wonderful things she has done. You can make the gift of blooming flowers even more meaningful by giving her some of the this year's new flowers:

Torenia: (several varieties) Colorful flowers all season; excellent heat tolerance, loves the shade, low maintenance.

Calibrachoa Superbells: (various colors) small petunia like flowers with a wide range of colors and multi-color flowers. Great for containers and hanging baskets. Sun to part sun.

Petunia 'Tidal Wave Silver': very vigorous mounding plants, can reach 3 feet tall. Loaded with white flowers and purplish veins. A few plants make a huge impact, perfect for large areas needing color.

Euphorbia 'Breathless Blush': this elegant and durable new series includes the only red-flushed leaf form on the market plus a White with terrific branching and denser flowering. Heat tolerant 'Breathless' fills in fast, makes stocky and mounded plants, and displays a showy mass of self-cleaning flowers all summer across a wide range of conditions. The long lasting, free-flowering plants are well-suited to solo and mixed containers, in-ground plantings and holiday gift planters, with low water needs and no deadheading.

Geranium 'Calliope Dark Red': a large true dark red geranium. Mix 'Calliope Dark Red' with million bells and verberna to make a beautiful hanging basket. It is an interspecific hybrid with zonal-type flowers and leaves. It has an outstanding velvety red flower color and is a vigorous grower with a mounding to semi-trailing growth habit. Avoid severe drying out and consistent wilting. Geraniums are a favorite bedding and container plant and are grown in almost every region of the country.

Impatiens Fanfare Series: the most sun tolerant impatiens, Fanfares create an outstanding summer display. Abundant bright flowers cover the full trailing foliage. Shade to part shade 16-20 inches tall by 18-24 inches wide.

Osteospermum 'Voltage Yellow': this unique clear yellow variety will stop traffic, it's the first Osteo in bloom and the last out of bloom, with a tendency to mound and spread. Sun to part sun. 10-16 inches tall by 24-28 inches wide.

Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost': heat and drought tolerant plants, clouds of airy white flowers all season, low maintenance, sun to part shade, 12-18 inches tall by 10-12 inches wide.

Begonia 'Dragon Wing Pink and Red': Vigorous and heat tolerant with abundant flowers all summer; great plant to fill open 14-18 inches tall, 15-18 inches wide shady spaces.

Begonia 'Million Kisses Elegance and Romance': New semi-trailing begonia with strong and



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Colorful Torenia varieties include the dramatic Cloen Blue.



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New this year is Osteospermum "Voltage Yellow."



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Freckles coleus will pop out of the garden.

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bushy foliage smothered with beautiful blush pink blooms. Continual flowering from April to October. Very free flowering and a refined habit; also copes well in both drought and heavy rain, no need to deadhead or trim. Shade to part shade.

Coleus 'Gay's Delight': Lime green leaves with red to purple markings. This is a sun loving variety. Can also plant in light shade 24-36 inches tall by 14-18 inches wide.

Coleus 'Freckles': Bronze and orange splotches on pale yellow leaves all summer. Great in containers and beds. Sun to shade 24-36 inches tall by 12-18 inches wide.

A Word Of Caution

We can still have a frost through the middle of this month. Hanging baskets and blooming pots can be brought inside over night if necessary. Flowers planted in your beds cannot.

You might keep any flowers meant for bed planting out of the ground for another couple of weeks.

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