

Country Gardens

Collectibles
Vintage
Garden
Tools

Escape to a Relaxing
**Backyard
Retreat**

POTTING SHED

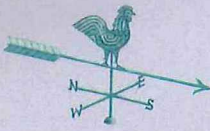
**Heirloom
Tomatoes**

Time-honored
varieties to
grow and en

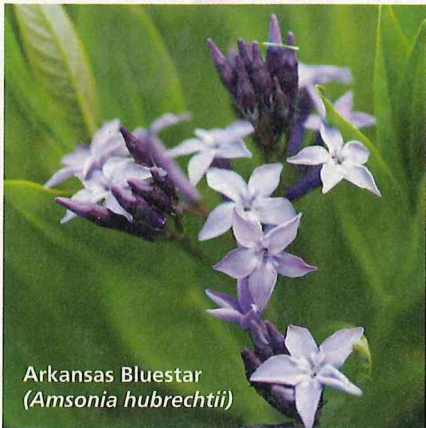
**Tree
Peonies**
Bold flowers,
easy care

**Mix
Perennials
& Annuals**
for the perfect
pathway

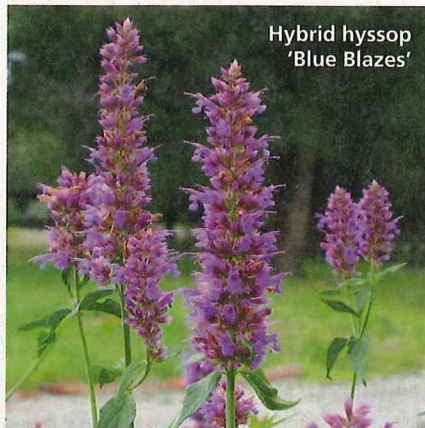
Summer 2011 Vol. 20, No. 3



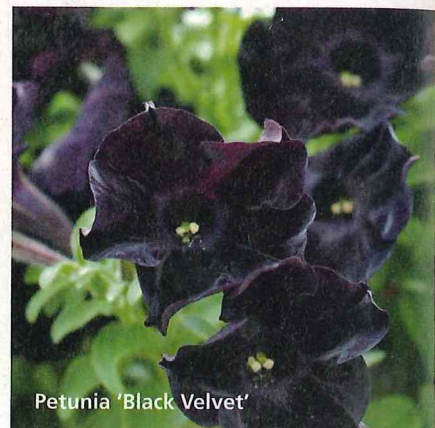
Grassroots What are your favorite new plants?



Arkansas Bluestar
(*Amsonia hubrechtii*)



Hybrid hyssop
'Blue Blazes'



Petunia 'Black Velvet'

Midwest

This year, I'm turning my attention to the flowerbeds in my front yard. I have a little bit of sun out front and a whole lot of part shade. My husband and I are making room in the sunny spots for these new plants:

- The Perennial Plant Association named Arkansas bluestar (*Amsonia hubrechtii*) its plant of the year for 2011, and several other horticultural organizations have formally recognized its merit. I am all for it, too. Arkansas bluestar, *above*, is a hardy native perennial (to Zone 4) with irresistible feathery leaves on stems up to about 40 inches tall. Its pale sky blue flowers are pretty in spring, but most gardeners grow *Amsonia hubrechtii* for the fantastic texture of the foliage, which turns bright yellow in autumn. It grows in full sun or part shade, tolerates drought, and is easy to propagate by division, so you can share it with friends. I have reserved a special spot for it in my Kansas City garden.

- I'm introducing native plants wherever I can. In a spot by the driveway, I grow handsome *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam', which blooms all summer long, and I've made room all around the garden for coneflowers. *Itea virginica* 'Morton', from the Chicagoland Grows plant introduction program (chicagolandgrows.com), is a great little native shrub. This Virginia sweetspire has pretty white bottlebrush flowers in summer and flashy fall color, and it thrives in sun or part shade. I'm also adding a few false indigo (*Baptisia australis*) plants; their blue sweet-pea-like flowers are lovely in spring, but I like the blue-green foliage and handsome black seedpods, too. They're going to be rubbing shoulders with some nice peonies in my garden, and I know they'll get along just fine.



Marty Ross lives in Kansas City and writes a monthly gardening column for Universal Press Syndicate.

Mountain

So many plants, so little time. You can never grow them all. The following new plants are worth the hunt this season:

- An extra-hardy form of the beautiful North American native smoke tree (*Cotinus obovatus*) comes from Minnesota, where it has survived temperatures to -51°F . Known as Cotton Candy or 'Northstar', it delivers stunning fluffy, pink flower panicles and orange-red fall color, with adaptability to alkaline soil.

- I appreciate boxwood selections that keep their tidy leaves deep green through our long winters, and have been surprised by their tolerance for dry clay soil. Gordo *Buxus* is a large-leaved, compact form hardy to Zone 5; Arctic Emerald *Buxus* is more upright, almost columnar, and hardy to Zone 4.

- David Salman of High Country Gardens in Santa Fe leads the way with new grasses and perennials for our region. This year he tempts gardeners with his selection of native blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition'). This midsize, drought-tolerant grass, co-introduced by Plant Select, is decorated with electronlike flowers and pretty seed heads. Also from High Country Gardens, Denver plantsman Kelly Grummons' large, floriferous hybrid hyssop 'Blue Blazes', *above*, promises better hardiness into Zone 5 and a nice lavender-blue alternative to the often more tender rose, pink, and orange blends. I am pleased to see a plant my husband Scott and I introduced make its national debut this year—Texas native silver ironweed (*Vernonia lindheimeri* ssp. *leucophylla*). It has beautiful, wispy, almost white foliage on shorter plants. It needs hot summers and is hardy to Zone 6.



Lauren Springer Ogden of Fort Collins, Colorado, is author of *The Undaunted Garden* and a coauthor of *Plant-Driven Design*.

Northeast

Aah, anticipation. Once upon a time there was the thrill of seeing what shiny, fresh cars were about to roll out of Detroit. Now, I get excited by brand-new plants, those that growers have tested and selected as the best and brightest. These are among those I can't wait to see at my nursery showrooms:

- Coneflowers in a series called PowWow, from PanAmerican Seed, promising more and longer-lasting flowers, a tidy habit, and drought tolerance. Always one of my favorite perennials, *Echinacea* will come in new versions: white, with a yellow center—and one with rose-color petals and a darker rose center ('Wild Berry').

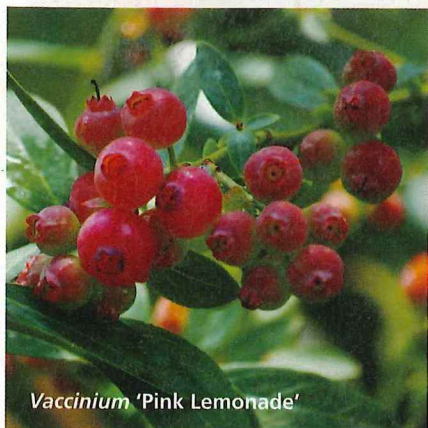
- The petunia called 'Black Velvet', *above*. Well, enough said for me, as I'm always looking for flowers as dark as they come—whether roses ... or petunias. This petunia from Ball Horticultural Co. certainly will look great hanging from baskets on my sunny porch.

- A peony from Monrovia called 'Smith Opus 1', one of the so-called intersectional hybrids, or Itoh peonies. As I have long sought, but never found, the perfect peony, I'm hopeful about these plants; Itoh peonies combine the best traits of tree peonies and herbaceous peonies and are said to produce up to 50 flowers in a season because of their ability to make so many secondary buds. 'Smith Opus 1' flowers start off orange and fade to peachy-yellow in full sun.

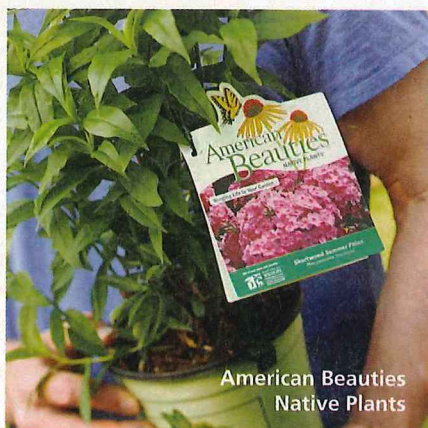
- The Bella Anna hydrangea, new in the Endless Summer collection from Bailey Nurseries. This magenta-pink mophead should be a fine companion to the blue Endless Summer I've grown for several years now, producing blooms way into fall.



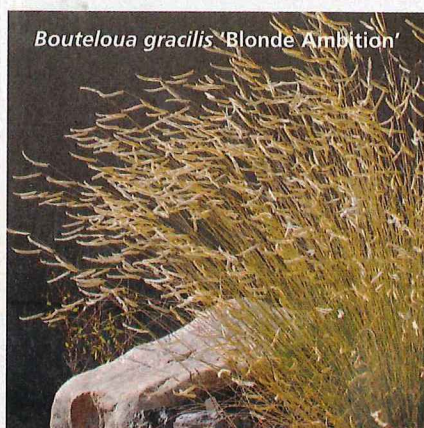
Lee May, journalist, author, and garden writer, has planted an acre of ornamentals in East Haddam, Connecticut.



Vaccinium 'Pink Lemonade'



American Beauties
Native Plants



Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'

Northwest

Looking for something new and different for the garden? Check out these great plants:

- *Camellia sasanqua* 'MonDel' Pink Yuletide: Late-fall- and winter-flowering camellias bring hope to the garden. Pink Yuletide has single flowers around a center of yellow stamen. Snip evergreen foliage for indoor holiday arrangements. Part shade; 8 feet tall and wide; Zones 7–10.
- *Geum* 'Cooky': Cheery orange flowers keep coming on this low-growing perennial, well-suited to the front of a border or pots. The rosette of foliage, with leaves divided like a leaf lettuce and slightly hairy, add an uncommon form to the garden. Full sun; Zones 4–9.
- *Hakonechloa macra* 'Briform' Fubuki: The white-and-green foliage of this Japanese forestgrass brightens a shade garden. Leaves turn pink in fall, and the plant holds its place in the garden well into winter. Cut back to the ground before spring growth. Part shade to shade; 18 inches tall and wide; Zones 5–9.
- *Rosa* 'Ausfence' Kew Gardens: Sprays of single, white, slightly fragrant flowers appear throughout the season from spring to fall. Deadhead for best repeat flowering, but toward the end of the season you might want to leave the sprays of tiny red hips for a winter show. 5 feet tall, 3 feet wide; Zones 6–8.
- *Vaccinium* 'Pink Lemonade', above: Clusters of white flowers in spring followed by pink (yes, pink!) blueberries, then yellow-to-orange fall color make this shrub a good choice for a year-round treat. Full sun, evenly moist soil; 4 feet tall, 3 feet wide; Zones 4–8.



Marty Wingate writes and gardens in Seattle, when she isn't leading a garden tour to European or North American destinations.

Southeast

One of the best things about having a country garden is knowing you can always tuck in something new. In my mind, it's perfectly acceptable to walk around until you find the ideal spot. If all else fails, planting in a container works just fine. As I talk with breeders about their latest successes, my plant list begins to grow. Plants calling my name this year include these:

- *Stokesia laevis* 'Elf', a dwarf sport from Stokes' aster, is only 8 inches high. While we might think of elves in December, this 'Elf' will bloom in late June to August, just in time for butterfly season.
- I trialed Slightly Strawberry *Anisodonta* in my garden this past year. The woody branches of this fast-growing annual can be left in their natural state or sheared to make a low hedge—like one you might see in a knot garden.
- Bountiful Blue *Vaccinium corymbosum* became available just as I wished for a blueberry plant to fit a smallish spot. It's reported to reach 3–4 feet tall and wide, with super-sweet fruit. I have just the place for Bountiful Blue, and I'm already tasting its goodness.
- *Daphne* 'Rebecca' is a variegated cultivar sporting wide, white leaf margins and bright red—yes, red—closed buds.
- In the "what's old is new again" category, I will be digging for the new series of plants called American Beauties Native Plants, above. The collection is organized to take the guesswork out of what native will work well in a certain part of the garden. The sale of each plant benefits the National Wildlife Federation.



Helen Yoest is a wildlife gardener, garden coach, and garden writer who nurtures a backyard habitat garden in Raleigh.

Southwest

The three new plants I'm most excited about in 2011 include a smashing small succulent, a blond ornamental grass, and a silvery perennial.

- Brakelights PPAF *Hesperaloe parviflora*: I confess I've been eagerly anticipating the release of Brakelights. Two years ago, I heard rumors about a shockingly red dwarf *Hesperaloe* being propagated by Mountain States Wholesale Nursery. Last year, I received three Brakelights to trial in my garden. In Tucson, my new plants bloomed nonstop for eight months with traffic-stopping red flower spikes. Brakelights will grow to a tidy 2x2-foot form. It is hardy to Zone 6. Look for it in nurseries this spring.
- Blondgrass: A brand-new ornamental blue grama grass selection—*Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition', above—has been named the 2011 Plant of the Year by Plant Select, which helps publicize exceptional new plants for the Intermountain West. It is a robust 2.5- to 3-foot-tall plant that puts out chartreuse seed heads that turn blond in winter; hardy to Zone 4.
- Sliver ironweed: *Vernonia lindheimeri* v. *incana* is a Western version of ironweed discovered in Texas by Scott and Lauren Springer Ogden. Its strikingly silver leaves and lavender-pink flowers are excellent combined with other perennials such as hummingbird mint and orange coneflower. Like its Eastern cousin, it is tall and upright (15 inches wide and 22–26 inches tall) and attracts butterflies in droves; hardy to Zone 6.
- Texas bear grass (*Nolina texana*) is not a grass but a fibrous succulent with curly tips that grows to a 3' x 3' size; hardy to Zone 5.



Scott Calhoun, a fourth-generation Arizonan, is a garden designer and writer living in Tucson. ■



Resources

Join our Home Enthusiast Panel™

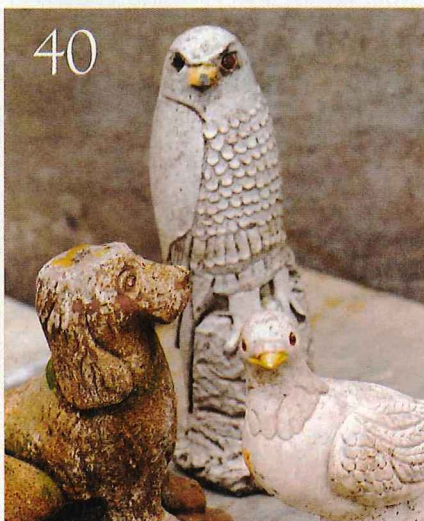
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bhgsip.com/cg



Breaking Ground Pages 12–13

Places for the Spirit: Traditional African American Gardens by Vaughn Sills (photographer); Trinity University Press; 2010; 160 pages.

Backyard Almanac Pages 18–20

For more from Anne Raver, consider:
Deep in the Green: An Exploration of Country Pleasures by Anne Raver; Vintage Books; 1996; 300 pages.

Design Notebook Pages 22–24

Peggy and Loren Krantz open their garden to visitors once a year as part of Stanton Old Fashioned Days. The 2011 festival will be held August 10–14. For more information, visit stantonofd.com.

Plant Sources include:
Garden Crossings; 616/875-6355; gardencrossings.com.

Weekend Gardener Pages 26–27

Seeds—Renee's Garden Seeds; reneesgarden.com.

SeedBallz—Garden Basket; 800/398-0539; gardenbasket.com.

Plantings: Hollyhocks Pages 28–29

Sources for hollyhocks include:
Renee's Garden Seeds; reneesgarden.com.
Select Seeds; 800/684-0395; selectseeds.com.
Swallowtail Garden Seeds; swallowtailgardenseeds.com.
Thompson & Morgan; 800/274-7333; tmseeds.com.
Wuv'n Acres; 14280 N. Sunset Valley Rd., Hulbert, OK 74441; wuvie.net.

Double Click Page 30

Garden Fancies—Going Green Art Designs; goinggreenartdesigns.com; e-mail: gardenart@goinggreenartdesigns.com.

A Way with Flowers Pages 32–39

Bells & Whistles @ the flower field; 500 Sand Dune Dr., Unit 8, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949; 252/441-9310; bellsandwhistlesobx.com.

The Art of Garden Ornament Pages 40–43

You can contact Anne Rowe by e-mailing thesugarplum@comcast.net or by calling 603/768-3925. The Sugarplum has a permanent exhibit at the York Antiques Gallery in York, Maine (yorkantiquesgallery.com) and the Parker-French Antique Center in Northwood, New Hampshire (603/942-8852).

Enchanted by the Prairie Pages 44–49

For more on prairie-style gardens, consider: *Prairie-Style Gardens: Capturing the Essence of the American Prairie Wherever You Live* by Lynn M. Steiner; Timber Press; 2010; 304 pages.
Gardening with Prairie Plants: How to Create Beautiful Native Landscapes by Sally Wasowski; University of Minnesota Press; 2001; 304 pages.

Plant sources for prairie-style plants include:
Prairie Moon Nursery; 866/417-8156; prairiemoon.com.

Worth the Wait Pages 56–61

The Tree Peony Festival of Flowers 2011 will be held at Linwood Gardens May 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, and June 4–5. The suggested contribution is \$8. For more information, visit linwoodgardens.org.

Edible Complex Pages 62–65

Garden design—thecreativegardener.com.

13 Junkmarket Garden Party Ideas Pages 66–71

Plants—Ottens Bros. Garden Center & Landscaping; ottenbros.com.

For more from Sue Whitney, consider:
Junk Beautiful: Outdoor Edition by Sue Whitney and Kimberly Melamed; Taunton Press; 2009; 208 pages.

For more information about Junkmarket, visit junkmarketstyle.com.



Treasure Chest Pages 72-79

To find out about scheduling a visit to Linda and Bill Pinkham's garden, e-mail Bill Pinkham at billpinkham1@me.com.

Daylily sources include:

Smithfield Gardens, 1869 Bridge Rd., Suffolk, VA 23433; 757/238-2511; smithfieldgardens.com.
Sterrett Gardens, P.O. Box 85, Craddocksville, VA 23341; 757/442-4606; sterrettgardens.com.

For more information about daylilies, visit daylilies.org (the American Hemerocallis Society's website) or daylilydiary.com.

Ode to the Heirloom Tomato Pages 90-97

Butcher Crick Farms—P.O. Box 314, Carlisle, IA 50047; 515/720-6969. For more information, visit localharvest.org/butcher-crick-farms-M41190. Butcher Crick Farms will be at the Des Moines Downtown Farmers' Market and the Historical Valley Junction Farmers Market July–October. Products can also be purchased through the Iowa Food Cooperative; visit iowafood.org.

Sources for heirloom tomato seeds include:

Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Co.; 417/924-8917; rareseeds.com.
Seeds of Change heirloom organic tomato Home Garden Starter Kit; seedsofchange.com.
Seed Savers Exchange; 563/382-5990; seedsavers.org.
Terroir Seeds/Underwood Gardens; 888/878-5247; underwoodgardens.com.

For more information on heirloom tomatoes, consider:

The Heirloom Tomato: From Garden to Table by Amy Goldman; Bloomsbury USA; 2008; 272 pages.
Tomato by Gail Harland; DK; 2009; 192 pages.

Grassroots Pages 100-101

Sources for the Midwest include:
For *Amsonia hubrechtii*: Bluestone Perennials; 800/852-5243; bluestoneperennials.com.
For Virginia sweetspire 'Morton': chicagolandgrows.com.

Sources for the Mountain region include:

For *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition', *Vernonia lindheimeri* v. *leucophylla*: High Country Gardens; 800/925-9387; highcountrygardens.com.

Sources for the Northeast include:

For *Echinacea* PowWow 'Wild berry', Petunia 'Black Velvet', Bella Anna hydrangea: White Flower Farm; 800/503-9624; whiteflowerfarm.com.

Sources for the Northwest include:

For *Vaccinium* 'Pink Lemonade', *Hakonechloa macra* 'Briform' Fubuki: White Flower Farm; 800/503-9624; whiteflowerfarm.com.
For Kew Gardens rose: David Austin Roses; 800/328-8893; davidaurinroses.com.
For *Geum* 'Cooky': Proven Winners; provenwinners.com.

Sources for the Southeast include:

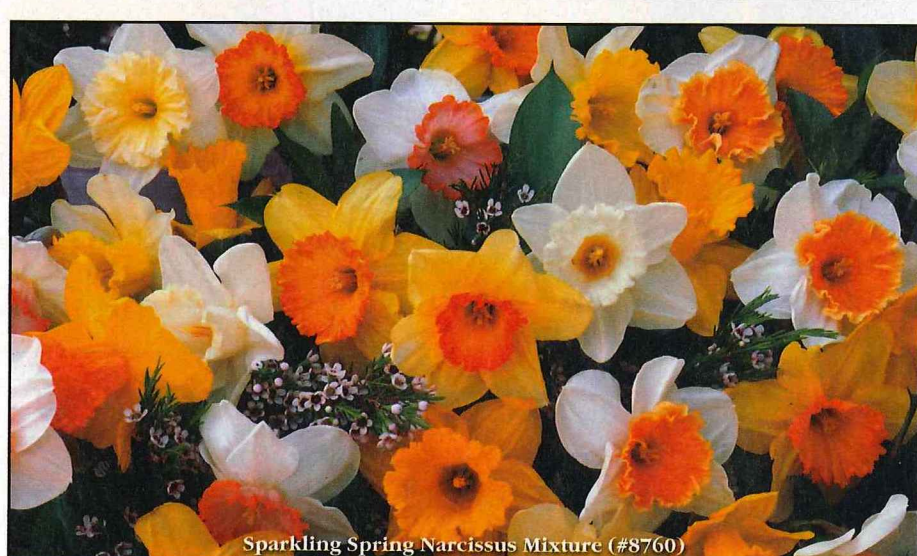
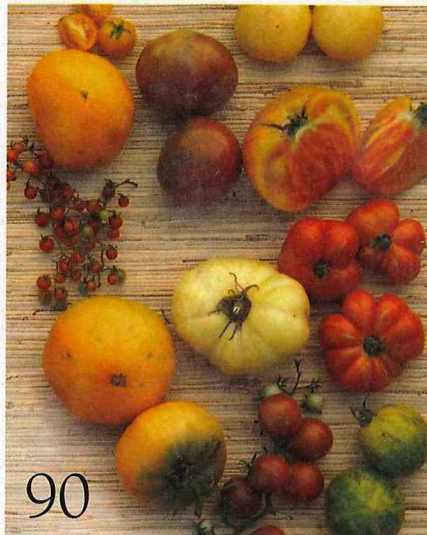
For Slightly Strawberry *Anisodonta*: New Garden Plants; 877/287-5926; newgardenplants.com.
For *Stokesia laevis* 'Elf': Forestfarm; 541/846-7269; forestfarm.com.
For more information about the American Beauties collection of native plants, visit abnativeplants.com.

Sources for the Southwest include:

For *Hesperaloe parviflora*, *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition': High Country Gardens; 800/925-9387; highcountrygardens.com.

Over the Garden Gate Page 112

For more from Margaret Roach, consider *And I Shall Have Some Peace There: Trading In the Fast Lane for My Own Dirt Road* by Margaret Roach; Grand Central Publishing; 2011; 272 pages.



Sparkling Spring Narcissus Mixture (#8760)

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