

Gardening Plants for 2011 offering colorful opportunities

**NANCY
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One of the great things about gardening in the 21st century is that there are lots of new plants introduced very year.

And now is when the green-trade magazines are filled with photos of the new kids on the block.

Granted, not all the new plants will be great, but it's fun to give some a try to see which ones will be added to your must-have list.

So let me give you a sneak peek of a few I've added to my wish list for spring.

One of the hot new plants for 2011 is Ball Floral Plant's "Black Velvet" pansy. This is no dark purple wanna-be — it's the first true black pansy. Those who love to garden with a sense of humor may plop one or two in their flowerbeds for shock value. Some will use the black pansies to add drama to mixed containers, while others will add them to planting beds and pots as a backdrop to make other colors pop. I'm hoping they will be available at pumpkin time next year to use in Halloween containers.

Those who had fun growing lettuce last year will love the Simply Salad collections from Pan Am Seed. The Alfresco Mix contains red and green leaf lettuces along with arugula, endive and radicchio, for a Mediterranean flavor and feel. This living salad bowl and a bottle of good

olive oil would make a great hostess gift.

The Global Gourmet Mix of red and green lettuces along with Asian greens is great for making salads and stir-fry. The combination not only tastes good, it makes a stunning addition of color and textures to the garden.

Another cool introduction I will be looking for is Pepper "Purple Flash." It's grown for its colorful foliage — black leaves with streaks of bright purple and white are stunning and the tiny glossy black peppers make fun ac-

cents. And these plants are drought tolerant once established.

The dark-throated Proven Winners Superbells Calibrachoa "Coralberry Punch" will be hard to pass up even if you have struggled with millionbells in the past. Overwatering and lack of fertilizer can spell trouble, so mark your calendars and feed them once a month without fail.

If dozens of little yellow daisy-shaped flowers dancing above a 12-14 inch puff of airy green foliage appeals to you, Bidens "Goldilocks Rocks" is the plant for you. Three of these lovelies bloomed nonstop in my sidewalk garden this summer, bidding a colorful welcome to all even in 90-degree weather.

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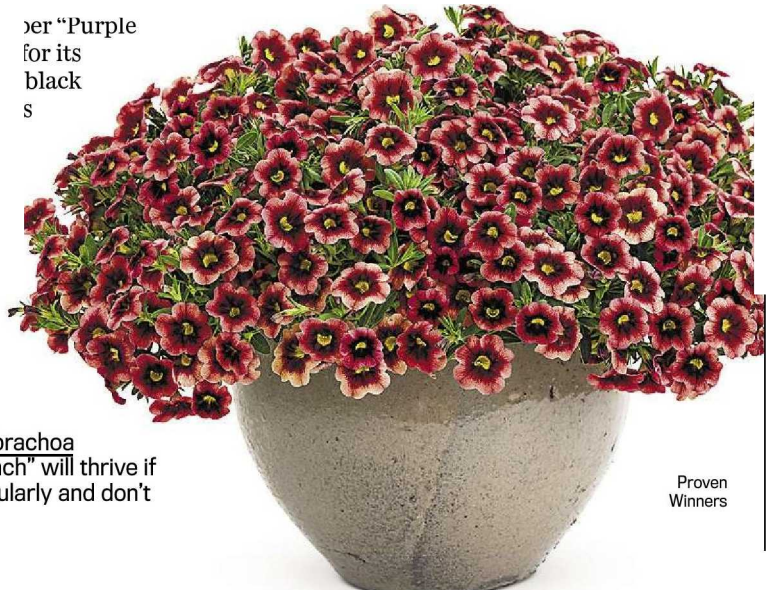
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Pan Am Seeds

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Superbells Calibrachoa
"Coralberry Punch" will thrive if
you fertilize regularly and don't
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Proven
Winners