new plants

lew plants are a favorite topic here at Garden Gate, as well as with our readers. And for good reason! Every year, breeders come up with new and exciting flower or foliage colors and smaller or taller versions of favorite plants. Some varieties are even more cold-hardy or heat-tolerant. This year is no exception. We found some new twists on old favorites like the petunia and zinnia at right. Or check out some of the improved cultivars, like the river birch with whiter bark than other varieties or the hydrangea with huge pink and white blooms on page 22. There are plenty of other tough new varieties you may want to try, too. Keep reading to learn more about why we like them.

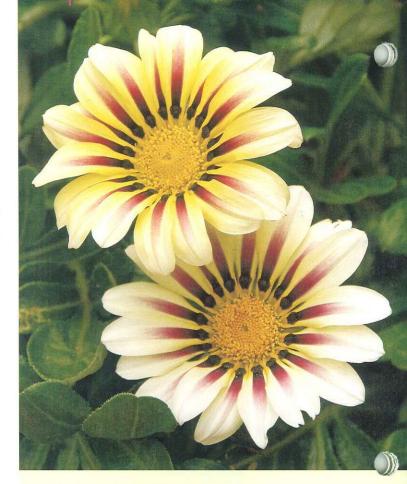
Don't get discouraged if you can't find your favorites right away, though. New plants, especially the woody plants on this list, will be hard to find (and more expensive) for a year or two. It takes time for nurseries to grow enough stock for everyone who wants one.

Can't get enough new plants? No problem. Visit our Web extra to check out 10 more of this year's exciting new introductions. Now let's take a look at some new plants!

— Sherri Ribbey



Check out our **slide show** of 10 more exciting new plants!



Big Kiss White Flame gazania

Gazania splendens

Bring on the heat! Gazanias don't mind. The new Big Kiss[™] series of gazanias is the perfect solution to those hot, dry areas where other annuals shrivel up and die. Sturdy stems support 4½-inch-wide flowers that are larger than other varieties. Like most gazanias, the flowers of this new variety close at night and on cloudy days. Big Kiss comes in two colors: White Flame, above, and Yellow Flame.

Group a few Big Kiss gazanias along the edge of a hot, sunny sidewalk or grow some in a container on your deck.



Type Tender perennial
Size 8 to 10 in. tall and wide

Size 8 to 10 in. tall
Bloom Spring to fall
Soil Well-drained

Light Full sun

Hardiness

Cold: USDA zones 10 to 11 Heat: AHS zones 12 to 1

Introducer

Goldsmith Seeds

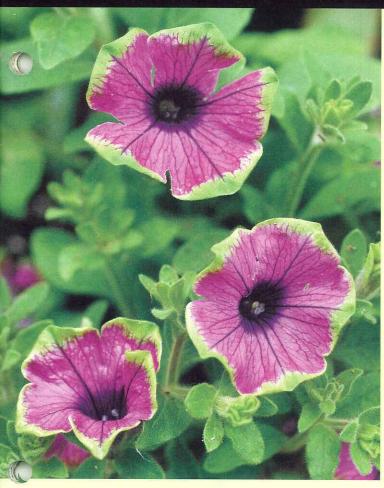
Source Local garden centers

What's new?

Bigger flowers!



PHOTO: Brent Isenberger (gazania)





Pretty Much Picasso petunia

Petunia hybrid

Practically everyone has grown petunias but not like this one! Pretty Much Picasso™ has a unique color combo. These chartreuse and purple flowers were a big favorite among our garden visitors. Though this trailing petunia gets a bit leggy by midsummer, we found that cutting it back made it more compact and full of flowers. It's easy to do: Just trim the stems back by as much as half when they get too long. Then feed the plant with an all-purpose, water-soluble fertilizer. You'll see blooms again in a week or so.



Type Annual Size 8 to 12 in. tall, 24 to 36 in. wide **Bloom** Spring to fall Soil Well-drained Light Full sun Hardiness

> Cold: Annual Heat: AHS zones 12 to 1

Introducer

Proven Winners® Source Local garden centers

What's new?

The wildest color combination to come along in years

Zahara Starlight Rose zinnia Zinnia marylandica

Zahara® zinnias are a relatively new series of tough little plants that can tolerate hot, dry conditions and resist powdery mildew. They come in a nice range of colors, too. There's white, red, yellow, coral and more. The newest addition to this group is a real standout, though — pink-striped Zahara Starlight Rose. You'll get the most intense pink stripe with full sun, cool nights and a liquid

Even though our plants were grouped tightly together with salvia and petunias in containers, they didn't show any signs of powdery mildew.

fertilizer every seven days.



Type Annual

Size 12 to 18 in, tall and wide

Bloom Spring to fall Soil Well-drained

Light Full sun Hardiness

> Cold: Annual Heat: AHS zones 12 to 1

Introducer

Simply Beautiful® Source Local garden centers

What's new?

Pretty color pattern





Jumping Jack viola Viola 'Balvijac'

Cool spring weather is prime garden time for violas. But once it starts getting hot, these pretty little plants tend to give up. Not Jumping Iack — this new viola has staying power. While it peaks in spring, this viola keeps producing colorful blooms even through the heat of summer. Water Jumping Jack regularly the first year you grow it. But the following year it will get along with occasional watering like other perennials. Just give it a drink during dry spells. If you do notice that the plants have stalled a little in the heat, cut them back by about half to encourage more blooms. You don't have to worry about reseeding, either. Jumping Jack stays in a nice tidy clump.



Type Perennial Size 6 to 8 in. tall, 6 to 10 in. wide **Bloom** Spring to fall Soil Well-drained Light Full sun to part shade Hardiness

Cold: USDA zones 5 to 10 Heat: AHS zones 10 to 1

Introducer

Ball Horticultural Co.

Source Local garden centers What's new?

A heat-tolerant viola!

Younique Lilac astilbe

Astilbe 'Verslilac'

It's no wonder so many people like astilbe. It's one of the few showy flowers that does well in shade. Younique Lilac™ is no exception. You can jazz up your shade garden with its big feathery lilac pink flowers. Younique Lilac has more flower scapes, or stems, per plant than other varieties so you'll have plenty of those colorful flowers to enjoy. And if this color doesn't strike your fancy, try one of the others in the series: deep pink, pale pink or white. In addition to the pretty flowers, the foliage stays in a tidy mound.



Perennial Type Size 16 to 20 in. tall and wide **Bloom** Early to midsummer Soil Moist, well-drained Light Full sun to full shade Hardiness

> Cold: USDA zones 4 to 9 Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1

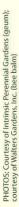
Introducer

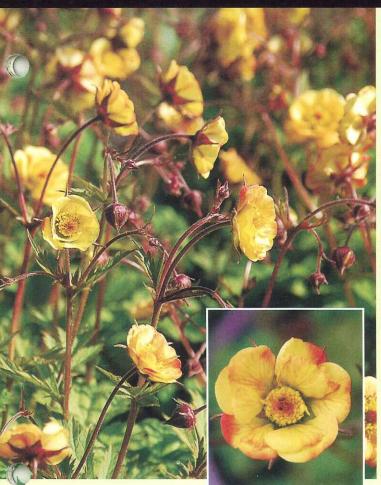
Walters Gardens

Source Local garden centers or www.Perennial Resource.com to find a retailer near you

What's new?

Even showier than most astilbes







'Tequila Sunrise' geum Geum hybrid

This new geum picks up the slack when tulips and daffodils start to fade in late spring. Single to semidouble yellow flowers brushed with red top off 18- to 24-inch dark red stems. Deadhead spent blooms to encourage side branches to develop more quickly and you'll have flowers for up to four weeks. 'Tequila Sunrise' is a sterile hybrid so it won't reseed like some geums do. The flowers are small, 1 to 11/2 inches in diameter, so group three or more plants together for the best show.

Flowers aren't the only good thing about this geum. The attractive mound of round, puckered leaves looks good even when it isn't flowering.



Perennial Type

8 to 10 in. tall (foliage), 10 to 12 in. wide

Bloom Spring

Soil Moist, well-drained

Light Full sun

Hardiness

Size

Cold: USDA zones 5 to 10 Heat: AHS zones 10 to 1

Introducer

Intrinsic Perennial Gardens

Source Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery www.songsparrow.com 800-553-3715

What's new?

Good-looking flowers that last for 4 weeks

'Purple Rooster' bee balm

Monarda didyma

Bee balm is a great native plant for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds, and it's deer-resistant, too. The big problem is that a lot of varieties have a real problem with powdery mildew. This dusty white fungus usually shows up around midsummer and makes plants look ratty. 'Purple Rooster' is so resistant you can plant this taller bee balm in the middle of the border without any worry. The foliage stays clean and green all season long. Topped off with large, deep-purple flowers, 'Purple Rooster' will make a big impact in your garden.



Perennial Type

Size 36 in. tall, 26 in. wide

Bloom Summer

Soil Moist, well-drained

Light Full sun Hardiness

> Cold: USDA zones 4 to 9 Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1

Introducer

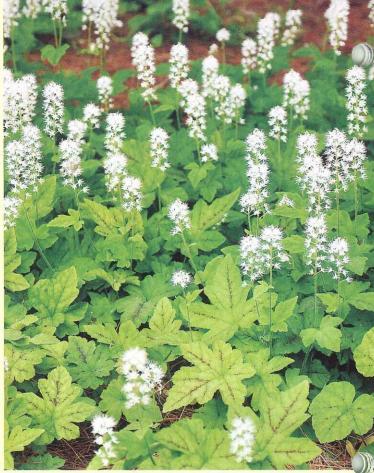
Walters Gardens

Source Local garden centers or www.Perennial Resource.com to find a retailer near you

What's new?

Great mildew resistance and deep purple flowers





'Crystal Pink' tall sedum Sedum spectabile

Sedums are some of the most low-maintenance plants you can grow, so make sure you try this new variety. A lot of other tall sedums tend to sprawl outward as summer progresses, but 'Crystal Pink' stays standing tall. There's no need for pinching or staking. Those sturdy stems are topped off with clear pink flowers that are magnets for butterflies and other insect pollinators. Leave the flowers standing for added winter interest.

Grow 'Crystal Pink' along with other butterfly-attracting beauties, such as coreopsis, yarrow and purple coneflower.



Type Perennial
Size 16 in. tall and wide
Bloom Summer to fall
Soil Poor, well-drained
Light Full sun
Hardiness

Cold: USDA zones 4 to 9 Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1

Introducer

Terra Nova Nurseries

Source Local garden centers

What's new?

Clear pink flowers on stems that don't flop

'Susquehanna' foamflower Tiarella cordifolia

Got shade? No problem for this new foamflower. It's the smallest of several new varieties of native foamflower. This species spreads by runners instead of forming clumps, as other types do. Whether your garden's soil is dry or moist, 'Susquehanna' can spread up to 24 inches in a single season, making it an excellent ground cover. Those dainty white flowers emerge in late spring on 6- to 8-inch stems and float above the foliage. The photo above shows its spring foliage look, which is a little lighter. As the summer progresses, the markings get larger and darker.



Type Perennial

Size 2 to 4 in. tall (foliage), 24 to 36 in. wide

Bloom Late spring to summer

Soil Average to moist, well-drained

Light Full to part shade

Hardiness

Cold: USDA zones 4 to 9 Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1

Introducer

Dunvegan Nursery

Source Lazy S's Farm and Nursery www.lazyssfarm.com

What's new?

Fast-growing flowering ground cover for shade









Bijou clematis Clematis 'EVIPO030'

If you think every clematis needs a trellis to climb, think again. This new variety only grows a foot or two tall. You can grow it up a small obelisk if you'd like, but it also makes a nice ground cover. It forms a mound, loaded with big 3- to 4inch purple flowers. Bijou also looks good in a hanging basket — you'll have friends asking what that new trailing flower is. But don't toss it out with the annuals - this clematis is plenty cold-hardy. Just plant it in the ground before a hard frost. Bijou is part of pruning group B, which means you remove only dead or damaged stems in early spring.



Type Perennial vine Size 12 to 24 in. tall, 12 in. wide **Bloom** Midspring to fall Soil Moist, well-drained **Light** Full sun to part shade Hardiness

> Cold: USDA zones 4 to 9 Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1

Introducer

Raymond Evison Clematis Source Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery www.songsparrow.com

800-553-3715

What's new? A tiny vine covered in big flowers

'Lucky Star' gladiolus Gladiolus hybrid

There has always been one thing lacking that would make glads the perfect cut flower fragrance, 'Lucky Star', a cross between good old-fashioned floral types and Abyssinian glads (Gladiolus callianthus), solves that dilemma. The name may sound familiar, because it was originally introduced in 1966 but was lost to the retail market. Now it's been rediscovered and is available for sale again. The light, sweet fragrance of 'Lucky Star' is most noticeable on hot, humid evenings. You might even see night-pollinating moths hovering nearby ready for a sip of nectar.

Type Bulb Size 48 in. tall, 3 to 6 in, wide

Bloom Late summer Soil Well-drained Light Full sun

Hardiness

Cold: USDA zones 8 to 10 Heat: AHS zones 12 to 1

Introducer

Old House Gardens

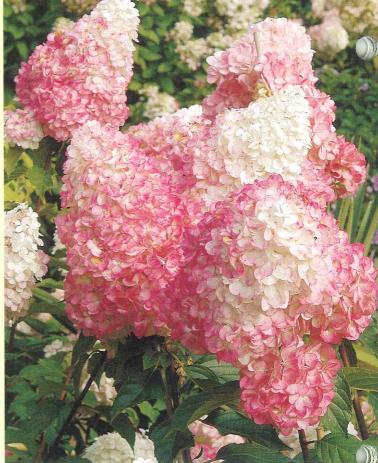
Source Old House Gardens www.oldhouse gardens.com 734-995-1486

What's new?

Fragrance from a gladiolus!

PHOTOS: Courtesy of Raymond J. Evison (cl courtesy of Old House Gardens (gladiolus)





City Slicker river birch Betula nigra 'Whit XXV'

River birches are sought after for their beautiful peeling bark, and City Slicker® won't disappoint. The bark is some of the lightest of any variety. And you don't have to wait long to see it, either: The bark starts peeling on branches as small as 1 inch in diameter. Our tree was small when we got it but it's grown steadily through four years of hot, humid summers and cold, snowy winters. Glossy dark green leaves are a welcome change from the usual pale green seen on other varieties. In fall they turn yellow-gold. This tree will be available in limited numbers in 2010, with an increasing supply in following years.



Type Tree

Size 35 ft. tall, 35 ft. wide (single stem — wider for multistem)

Bloom NA

Soil Well-drained

Light Full sun Hardiness

> Cold: USDA zones 5 to 9 Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1

Introducer

Lacebark Inc.

Source Sooner Plant Farm www.soonerplantfarm.com 918-453-0771

What's new?

Lighter bark and glossy dark green leaves

Vanilla Strawberry hydrangea Hydrangea paniculata 'Renhy'

This new hydrangea will knock your socks off! Vanilla Strawberry™ sports big 12-inch flowers that start out creamy vanilla white and gradually change to soft pink, then deep strawberry pink. Its unique color combination isn't just a flash in the pan, either. These beautiful flowers remain looking good for up to four weeks, and strong red stems keep them upright where you can see them. New blooms provide a multicolored show from summer to fall. Pruning is easy; in late winter to early spring, cut off any damaged stems.



Type Shrub

Size 6 to 7 ft. tall, 4 to 5 ft. wide

Bloom Summer to fall

Soil Well-drained

Light Full sun to part shade **Hardiness**

narumess

Cold: USDA zones 4 to 8 Heat: AHS zones 8 to 1

Introducer

Bailey Nurseries

Source Local garden centers

What's new?

Great big flowers that change color





Lucky™ Pure Gold lantana Lantana camara

TYPE Tender perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Solid yellow flowers; good branching produces a compact habit; 12 to 16 in. tall, 12 to 14 in. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun; well-drained soil; cold-hardy in USDA zones 9 to 11, heattolerant in AHS zones 12 to 1

INTRODUCER Ball Horticultural

SOURCE Local garden centers



Illusion™ Emerald Lace sweet potato vine Ipomoea batatas

TYPE Tender perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE More compact than other varieties; 8 to 10 in. tall, 24 to 36 in. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun; well-drained soil; cold-hardy in USDA zones 8 to 11; heat-tolerant in AHS zones 12 to 1

INTRODUCER Proven Winners®

SOURCE Garden Crossings www.gardencrossings.com, 616-875-6355



'Eternal' snapdragon Antirrhinum hybrid

TYPE Tender perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Variegated leaves; pink flowers in spring with a repeat in fall; 12 in. tall, 10 in. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun; moist, welldrained soil; cold-hardy in USDA zones 7 to 9. heat-tolerant in AHS zones 12 to 1

INTRODUCER Skagit Nursery

SOURCE Local garden centers



'Route 66' coreopsis Coreopsis verticillata

TYPE Perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Red and yellow flowers summer to fall; more red in fall (in photo); 24 to 28 in. tall, 20 to 24 in. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun; well-drained soil; cold-hardy in USDA zones 5 to 9, heattolerant in AHS zones 9 to 1

INTRODUCER ItSaul Plants

SOURCE Great Garden Plants www.greatgardenplants.com, 877-447-4769



'Pink Lemonade' blueberry Vaccinium hybrid

TYPE Shrub

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Pink berries that are good to eat; need two plants for pollination; red fall foliage; 5 ft. tall and wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun; moist, welldrained acid soil; cold-hardy in USDA zones 4 to 7, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 7 to 1

INTRODUCER Briggs Nursery

SOURCE Local garden centers; very limited release this year so it may be hard to find



Pumpkin Patch™ rose Rosa 'Wekmongros'

TYPE Shrub; floribunda type

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Caramel-orange flowers spring to fall; fragrant; 5 ft. tall, 2 to

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun; moist, welldrained soil; cold-hardy in USDA zones 5 to 8, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 8 to 1

INTRODUCER Weeks Roses

SOURCE Regan Nursery www.regannursery.com, 800-249-4680 PHOTOS: Courtesy of ItSaul Plants (coreopsis); courtesy of Briggs Nursery (blueberry); courtesy of Weeks Roses (rose)