

Perennials and the Weeds
that Resemble Them: *Our guide*
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(and Colorful!) **COMBOS** page 30

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THE BEST New Plants

for **SUN** and **SHADE**

(Our 24 MUST-HAVES for 2011) page 18

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Phantom petunia
on page 18

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Attracting
Nesting Birds**

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You Hit the Garden Center page 42



'Coconut Ice' sunflower

Helianthus hybrid

'Coconut Ice' has whiter petals and a bigger center disc than other similar cultivars. There's one 4- to 8-inch flower per stem. But don't pack them tightly or the blooms won't grow as big — 20 inches apart is about right. Since there aren't a lot of flowers per stem, 'Coconut Ice' looks best planted in a group.

Sunflowers are easy to start from seed, but they have a tap root so it's better to direct-sow them outdoors after the last frost. Plant a few seeds every week for a month and plants will mature at different rates. Then you'll have a steady supply of flowers for your summer bouquets.



- Type** Annual
- Blooms** White from summer to fall
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 60 in. tall, 20 to 24 in. wide
- Hardiness**
Cold: Annual
Heat: AHS zones 12 to 1
- Introducer**
Burpee®
- Source**
Burpee
www.burpee.com
800-333-5808
- What's new?**
Big flowers that stay white

'Cherry Caramel' phlox

Phlox drummondii

The great thing about annual phlox is that it just doesn't stop blooming. And who wouldn't want the sophisticated blooms of 'Cherry Caramel' all summer long? Start seeds inside for an earlier bloom time or sow them directly into the soil after all danger of frost is past. Either way you'll have flowers in eight to nine weeks. Deadheading keeps plants blooming until frost. When the flowers are spent, cut the plant back by about one-third. You'll see blooms in a couple of weeks.

Annual phlox slows down in summer's heat, but perks up again as temperatures cool in fall.



- Type** Annual
- Blooms** Buff and pink from spring to fall
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 12 to 18 in. tall, 16 in. wide
- Hardiness**
Cold: Annual
Heat: AHS zones 12 to 1
- Introducer**
Select Seeds
- Source**
Select Seeds
www.selectseeds.com
800-684-0395
- What's new?**
Unusual flower color

garden gate's top picks

new plants 2011

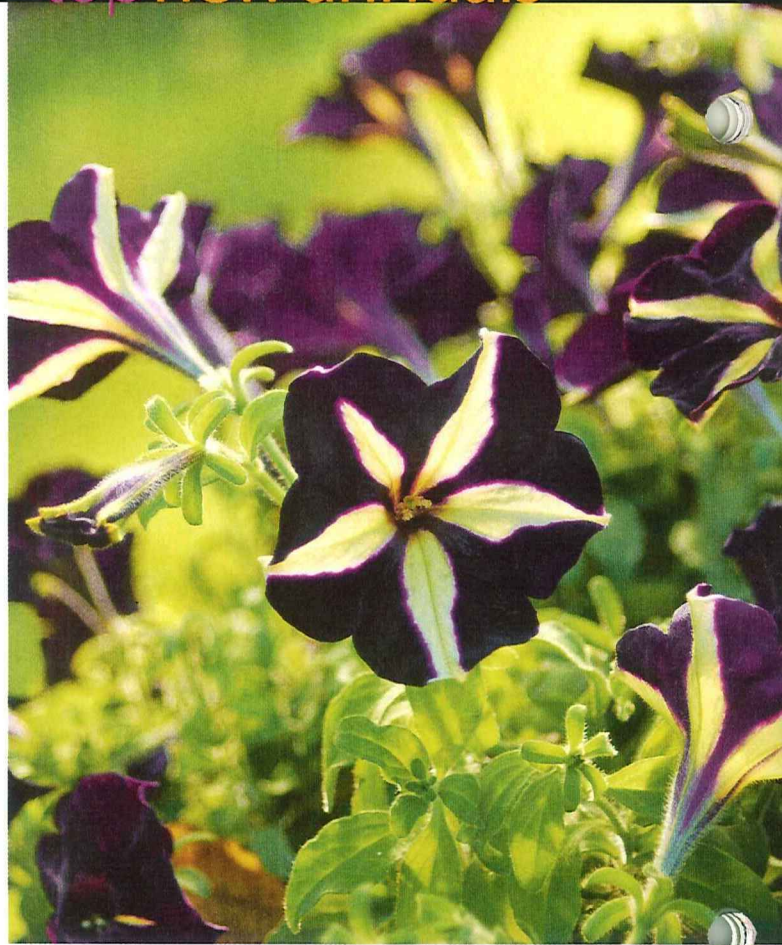
New plants are always exciting, and this year I've got something for everyone. Tired of the same old petunia? No problem: Breeders came up with some new looks for this old favorite. And if you're concerned about your budget, a couple of these annuals are easy to start from seed. There are tough, drought-resistant plants that still flower like crazy, shade plants with eye-catching variegation to light up those dark areas under trees, and plenty more. I even found a rare epimedium for those of you who like to collect out-of-the-ordinary new plants.

We had a lot of rain in our test garden last year and the temperatures went from hot to cold to hot again before the summer ended. So the plants we grew were really challenged, and most performed well despite being waterlogged.

If one of these introductions is appealing enough for you to purchase, make sure to get your order in right away. Even the ones that are grown in large numbers, such as the petunias, will probably be gone in a flash because they're so unusual. Other plants aren't quite as easy to propagate so it takes time to get large numbers ready for sale.

Now let's take a look at some of the new plants you can look forward to in 2011. And if this group isn't enough for you, take a look at our Web extra to see even more new plants that we liked. □

— Sherri Ribbey



Phantom petunia

Petunia hybrid

Think there's nothing surprising about petunias? Take a look at Phantom. It's as easy to grow as any other petunia, but with a dramatic new look. Worried about the stripes clashing with other colors? Combine Phantom with yellow. We grew it with a yellow coreopsis and a green-and-cream euphorbia in a pale yellow container. This worked well because the dark stripe wasn't lost in the shadows or against dark green foliage.

A monthly dose of a liquid fertilizer, such as Miracle Gro®, keeps the flowers coming all season.



- Type** Annual
- Blooms** Yellow and deep purple stripes from spring to fall
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 8 to 12 in. tall and wide
- Hardiness**
Cold: Annual
Heat: AHS zones 12 to 1
- Introducer**
Simply Beautiful®
- Source** Local garden centers
- What's new?**
Unique color pattern



Check out our **slide show** for more exciting new plants!



PHOTOS: Courtesy of Proven Winners (candytuft); courtesy of Walters Gardens, Inc. (veronica)

Absolutely Amethyst candytuft
Iberis 'IB2401'

Get some front-of-the-border flowers in late spring with Absolutely Amethyst™ candytuft. When the show is over, shear off the spent blooms to tidy things up and enjoy the deep-green disease-resistant foliage. In warm winter areas the leaves stay green with a hint of purple.

Give this candytuft plenty of sun and it will be covered in flowers. With room to spread, plants will form a tidy mat up to 20 inches wide; or grow a dense mass planting by spacing them 10 to 12 inches apart. Just make sure the soil is well-drained — roots may rot in heavy clay.



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** Lavender in late spring
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 10 to 12 in. tall, 14 to 20 in. wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 4 to 9
Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1
- Introducer** Proven Winners®
- Source** Garden Crossings™ LLC
www.gardencrossings.com
616-875-6355

What's new?
Loads of pretty flowers

'Hocus Pocus' veronica

Veronica hybrid

If spike flowers are the exclamation points of the garden, 'Hocus Pocus' will cause a lot of excitement. Its extra-long flower stems make up about two-thirds the height of the plant! Vibrant purple flowers start opening at the bottom of the spike and move upward in summer. When the center spike on a stem is spent, snip it out because the side stems will keep going.

Plants form a clump that won't flop open, and the foliage is very disease-resistant.



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** Purple from early to midsummer
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 16 to 20 in. tall, 12 in. wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 4 to 8
Heat: AHS zones 8 to 1
- Introducer** Walters Gardens, Inc.
- Source** Local garden centers

What's new?
Super long purple flower spikes



'Peachy Seduction' yarrow

Achillea millefolium

Tired of yarrows that flop? Try the Seduction series, which stays upright. The newest color, 'Peachy Seduction', produces large peach-pink flower clusters all summer. Other colors in this series include pink 'Saucy Seduction', red 'Strawberry Seduction' and yellow 'Sunny Seduction'. To keep the sturdy flower stems upright, make sure to grow your plant in full sun. It'll do fine in part shade but will get leggy there. Its ferny, disease-resistant foliage is an attractive deep green.



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** Peach-pink from summer to fall
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 18 to 24 in. tall and wide
- Hardiness**
Cold: USDA zones 4 to 8
Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1
- Introducer**
Blooms of Bressingham®
- Source** Local garden centers
- What's new?**
Upright plants that don't flop

'Echo Mango' torch lily

Kniphofia uvaria

I've always enjoyed torch lilies, but the flowers seem to fade too quickly. 'Echo Mango' sends up several flushes of flower spikes each season so it looks good much longer than old torch lilies. Starting in early summer, soft yellow-orange flowers show up and keep coming until a hard frost causes the plants to go dormant. Cut off spent blooms below the foliage to keep the plant tidy and make way for new ones.

Help plants survive winter by tying the foliage together over the crown with twine in fall to keep moisture out and prevent rot.



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** Yellow-orange from summer to fall
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 36 to 40 in. tall (in flower), 18 to 24 in. wide
- Hardiness**
Cold: USDA zones 6 to 9
Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1
- Introducer**
ItSaul Plants, LLC
- Source** Lazy S's Farm Nursery
www.lazyssfarm.com
- What's new?**
A reliable rebloomer



'Whitewater' bear's breeches
Acanthus hybrid

You might say 'Whitewater' is the drama queen of the garden. Those big white and pink flowers stand a foot or two over the big bold foliage. And its variegation is so vibrant it doesn't just lighten up your shade garden — it illuminates it! Besides looking good, 'Whitewater' has more vigor than previous variegated cultivars and better tolerance for cold, heat and humidity.

The flowers that open on 4-foot-tall scapes last for months and make great cut flowers.



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** White and pink in summer
- Light** Full to part shade
- Soil** Moist, well-drained
- Size** 4 ft. tall (in flower), 3 ft. wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 7 to 10
Heat: AHS zones 10 to 1
- Introducer** Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc.
- Source** Forestfarm
www.forestfarm.com
541-846-7269

What's new?
Vibrant white variegation on a vigorous plant

Fubuki hakonechloa
Hakonechloa macra
'Briform'

This new hakonechloa will knock your socks off. Graceful green and white striped Fubuki™ (which is Japanese for "snow-storm") looks good from spring to summer. When cooler fall temperatures arrive, the white areas of the leaves develop a slight pink tint.

Fubuki is more compact than other cultivars, but what we liked best about it is its vigor. The small plants we received last spring took right off and developed into beefy plants, like the one in the photo above. And you don't have to worry about it reverting, either. We didn't see a single unstriped blade all season.



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** NA
- Light** Part shade
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 10 in. tall, 16 in. wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 5 to 9
Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1
- Introducer** Briggs Plant Propagators, LLC
- Source** Great Garden Plants, Inc.
www.greatgardenplants.com
877-447-4769

What's new?
Beautiful variegation



'Hubei Treasure' epimedium

Epimedium leptorrhizum

You may not be just the *first* person in your neighborhood to have 'Hubei Treasure' in your garden, you might be the *only* one to have it! This cultivar of a hard-to-find species has larger pink and white flowers in spring. Smaller than many epimediums, this low-growing, low-maintenance ground cover is deer-resistant, too! Deep burgundy spring foliage changes to glossy green for summer and stays that way through winter.

'Hubei Treasure' is a rare specimen, so make sure to get one while you can. There are only 50 available for sale.



Type Perennial
Blooms Pink and white in early spring
Light Part shade
Soil Moist, well-drained
Size 6 to 8 in. tall, 18. wide
Hardiness Cold: USDA zones 5 to 9
 Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1

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

What's new? Lavender-pink and white flowers

'Curly Fries' hosta

Hosta hybrid

Would you like fries with your shade garden? If it's 'Curly Fries' hosta, you might want to super-size your order and get several because this is one small hosta. But what's really cool are the stiff, but not rigid, ruffled leaves. It almost looks like an agave or yucca. Grow it in containers or along a shady path — somewhere you can reach out and touch it to make sure it's real.

Leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, then turn gold. If it's growing in a little more sun, leaves will fade to creamy white by late summer. Deep purple scapes carry lavender flowers in late summer.



Type Perennial
Blooms Lavender in late summer
Light Part shade
Soil Well-drained
Size 5 in. tall, 16 in. wide
Hardiness Cold: USDA zones 3 to 9
 Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1

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

What's new? Extremely narrow ruffled leaves



Show Off Starlet forsythia

Forsythia 'Minfor6'

Kick off the growing season in style by adding Show Off™ Starlet to your perennial garden. The branches are completely covered with blooms in spring — a welcome relief from the winter blahs. Not only does its diminutive stature makes it a sure bet for any size garden, it fits in well with other spring bloomers, such as hellebores and early tulips, that are smaller in stature.

No pruning is needed if you want to keep Show Off Starlet looking natural. For a specific shape remove branches right after flowering in spring. You can even cut the whole thing back to the ground if you want a smaller shrub.



- Type** Shrub
- Blooms** Yellow in spring
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 2 to 3 ft. tall and wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 5 to 9
Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1

- Introducer** Proven Winners ColorChoice®
- Source** Garden Crossings LLC
www.gardencrossings.com
616-875-6355

What's new?
Dwarf plant that blooms all along the stem

Bali rose of Sharon Hibiscus syriacus 'Minfren'

It's nice to have a flowering shrub that you can rely on to bloom through summer's heat right up to the first hard frost of fall. This new rose of Sharon won't disappoint. Bali™ has tropical-looking 5- to 6-inch semi-double flowers that bloom on new growth. For the most flowers, prune in late winter or early spring. There are two other rose of Sharon hybrids in this series: Fiji™ (medium pink fading to light pink) and Tahiti™ (pink).

Bali is good sized but smaller than other rose of Sharon, and it doesn't reseed so it won't spread all over the garden.



- Type** Shrub
- Blooms** White with burgundy center from summer to fall
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 5 to 8 ft. tall, 4 to 7 ft. wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 5 to 8
Heat: AHS zones 8 to 1

Introducer Bailey Nurseries
Source Local garden centers
What's new? Pretty flowers on smaller plants that don't reseed

PHOTO: Courtesy of Proven Winners ColorChoice (forsythia)

6 bonus new plants



Fantasia™ Purple Sizzle geranium
Pelargonium hybrid

TYPE Tender perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Large semi-double pink flowers from spring to fall; 12 to 14 in. tall and wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun; well-drained soil; cold-hardy in USDA zones 10 to 11, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 12 to 1

INTRODUCER Simply Beautiful

SOURCE Local garden centers



Superbells® Coralberry Punch calibrachoa
Calibrachoa hybrid

TYPE Tender perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Salmon-coral flowers with a deep red eye from spring to fall; 8 to 12 in. tall, trails up to 3 ft. wide

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

INTRODUCER Proven Winners

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



'Gryphon' begonia *Begonia* hybrid

TYPE Tender perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Ivory flowers in summer; silver variegation on the foliage; 14 to 16 in. tall, 16 to 18 in. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Part sun to full shade; well-drained soil; cold-hardy in USDA zones 11 to 12, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 12 to 1

INTRODUCER PanAmerican Seed™

SOURCE Local garden centers



Rising Sun™ redbud *Cercis canadensis* 'JN2'

TYPE Tree

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Purple flowers in spring; foliage that's chartreuse and shades of orange; 10 to 12 ft. tall, 10 to 15 ft. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun to part shade; well-drained soil; cold-hardy in USDA zones 6 to 9, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 9 to 1

INTRODUCER Ray Jackson

SOURCE Sooner Plant Farm, Inc.
www.soonerplantfarm.com



'Whitewater' veronica *Veronica* hybrid

TYPE Perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE White flowers in spring; spreading ground cover; 6 in. tall, 12 to 18 in. wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun; well-drained soil; cold-hardy in USDA zones 4 to 8, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 8 to 1

INTRODUCER Chicagoland Grows®, Inc.

SOURCE Local garden centers



'Blonde Ambition' blue grama grass
Bouteloua gracilis

TYPE Perennial

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE Blonde flowers in summer; mounding habit; 2 to 3 ft. tall and wide

HOW TO GROW IT Full sun; dry to well-drained soil; cold-hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 9 to 1

INTRODUCER High Country Gardens®

SOURCE High Country Gardens
www.highcountrygardens.com, 800-925-9387