

Bringing your garden to life

January/February 2011

gardening

HOW-TO

**SPECIAL
REPORT**

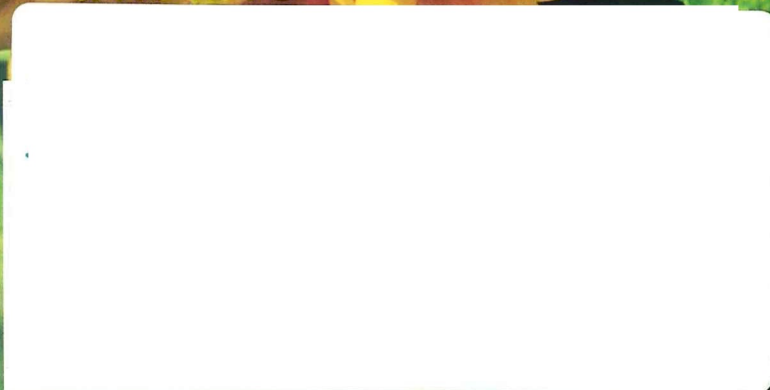
**best new
plants
of 2011**

**EASY
WEEKEND
PROJECT**

**mount a
window box
in a few
simple steps**

**8 big
garden
mistakes**

& HOW TO



See Resource Guide on page 48 for additional sources.



Mandevilla 'Vivian'

The mandevilla, a tropical vine, is beloved for its nonstop blooms and its ability to climb several feet of a trellis or arbor in the time it takes to drag out the sprinkler. What happens when you harness that flower power and put it in bush form? Enter the Vogue series of mandevillas from Athens Select. 'Sophia', with lipstick red blossoms, and 'Vivian', in bright pink, will bloom all summer in a tidy shrub that doesn't require so much as a single stake.

- Sun:** Full sun
- Soil:** Average to dry
- Height:** 18 to 24 inches
- Width:** 30 inches
- Source:** Local garden centers; see Athens Select Web site for store locator.



Mecardonia 'USMECA8205' GoldDust

Imagine rivers of gold flowing between flagstones in your garden path, or a carpet of dense yellow blossoms brightening the front of a border, and you have a pretty good idea of what a sprinkle of GoldDust will do for your garden. This petite ground cover blooms from May to October with tiny nemesia-like flowers that pack a powerful punch. It tolerates heat, too, and doesn't need deadheading.

- Sun:** Full sun
- Soil:** Average
- Height:** 2 to 5 inches
- Width:** 12 to 16 inches
- Source:** Local garden centers; see Proven Winners Web site for store locator.



Petunia 'Balpevac' Black Velvet/Black Cat

We don't typically think of petunias and evening gowns at the same time, but that might change with the introduction of the Black Velvet petunia from Ball Horticultural Co. The dark, soft petals have just a bit of shimmer, and their deep, mysterious color adds a bit of glamour to a container of annuals. This petunia, which is also being sold by Burpee under the name Black Cat, grows in a mounded habit and blooms summer through fall.

- Sun:** Full sun
- Soil:** Average
- Height:** 8 to 12 inches
- Width:** 8 to 12 inches
- Source:** Local garden centers

LEFT TO RIGHT: ATHENS SELECT; PROVEN WINNERS; BALL HORTICULTURAL COMPANY

See the CandyDrops series of Cape fuchsia and the Coloropsis coreopsis series at www.gardeningclub.com.