

Golden State Goodies

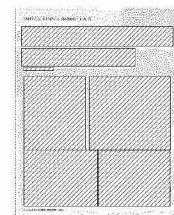
In addition to the bright colors and bold new varieties of this year's California Spring Trials, emphasis placed on vegetable and herb introductions couldn't go unnoticed. Here's a snapshot of what caught our eye this year.

By Jasmina Radjevic

2012 CALIFORNIA SPRING TRIALS



Hanging baskets are no longer just for trailing flowers; now gardeners can pick fresh veggies from their front porch! Plus, these vegetable plants are just as colorful and eye-catching as their floral counterparts. (Top left: Floranova. Top right: [Ball Horticultural Co.](#))





More and more breeders are introducing edible collections to accompany their flowering plants, offering growers and retailers more of a variety of herbs and vegetables. Here is a sampling of Ecker Ranch's new collection.

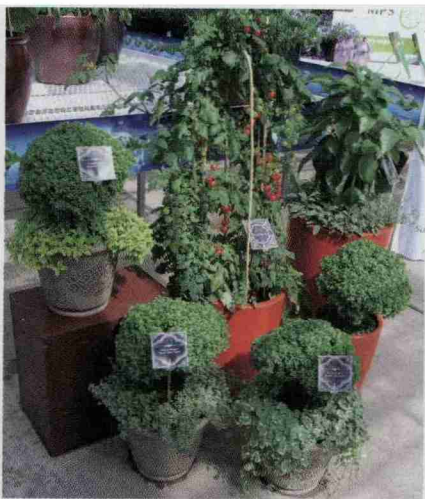


Now gardeners can have their very own salad bars at home horizontally or vertically (with pallets). You can use similar displays as model gardens or to merchandise your edible varieties in the garden center. (Top: Sakata. Right: Burpee Home Gardens)

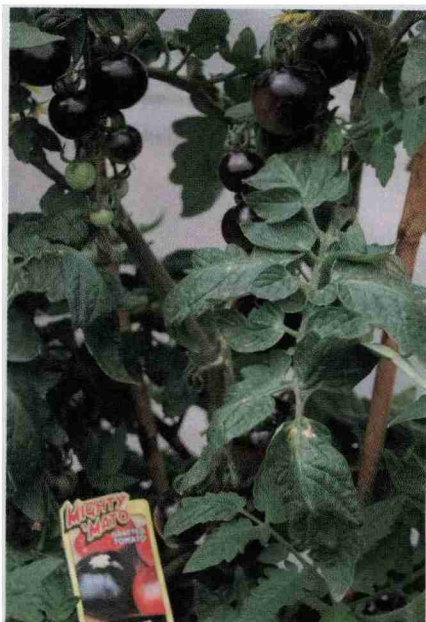
Bite-sized goodness! With small-space gardening growing in popularity, breeders realize many gardeners may not have the space required for a traditional vegetable gardening. So they're now coming out with miniature fruits and veggies. (Left: sweet pepper 'Bellina' by Floranova. Right: canteloupe 'Lilliput' by Sakata.)



How big a consumer's yard is will dictate what she can and cannot plant in her garden. Help her decide with small-space displays showcasing mixed planters that include edibles and flowers. She'll have the best of both worlds! (Floranova)



These wonderful basil trees from Hishtil Nurseries offer year-round performance. Use as a patio plant in the summer and as a house plant in the winter.



Breeders have been introducing unique colors to their floral lines for the past few years, and now they're getting creative with their edible varieties as well. Check out this black tomato from Plug Connection!



Syngenta is now offering its vegetable varieties to retailers and growers through its flower channel. In the past, these professional-grade varieties were only available to farmers.

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