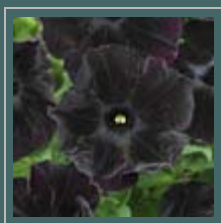


FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2010

➔ New Plant Varieties for 2011



I've been sifting through the new plant offerings for 2011 to find varieties hardy for the northern region of the U.S. and up into Canada.

Here are a few hardier- than- thou shrub and flower offerings for 2011 for us northern gardeners. Look for these new offerings at a garden center or Internet site near you.

Great Star Hydrangea (*Hydrangea paniculata* Great Star)

You may be looking *up* at this plant by summer's end. It grows to 8 ft. and won't stop flowering until a frost kills it in the fall. It features giant white, star-shaped flowers, up to four inches across. Like all perennials, it may take a couple of years to reach the optimal height. It will do best in a sunny spot protected from the elements. It was bred by wholesale nursery Bailey Nurseries. Zones 4-8.

Also coming out of Bailey Nurseries is a zone 4-9 rose, Rosa Sigred Rose, which sounds like a shrub rose (correct me if I'm wrong!) to me. It "boasts enormous clusters of red double blooms." It also reaches just over three feet tall with inch wide flowers, making it a space saver as well as a pretty plant.

Black Velvet Petunia (*Petunia xhybrida* 'Black Velvet')

Wasn't there a song about this? This is the first black petunia on the market. Bred by the fine folks at Ball Horticultural, which has been plant breeding for decades (in fact, many varieties take decades to come to market). It grows 8-10 inches tall and just as wide. Black Velvet will mix in nicely with whites and yellows and possible other colors in your garden, so give it a try.

Pineapple Mango Yarrow (*Achillea* 'Pineapple Mango')

There is arguably no better flower to grow for dried flower arrangements. This one, bred by 90 year-old Blooms of Bressingham, is a new addition to the Tutti Frutti yarrow series. Large, multi-colored flowers and good disease tolerance should make this one a hit in zones 4-8.

Copper Queen Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) 'Copper queen'

Can't get enough of hibiscus? I know I can't. Here is a zone 4-11 plant you've just got to try. The blooms are nearly a foot wide! It is actually a compact plant, growing to just three feet tall. The leaves

and flowers are red. Fleming's Flower Fields bred this dandy of a hibiscus.

So there you go, no more complaining that we don't have spectacular plants to choose from here in the north country. This is just a taste of new plant varieties for 2011. Stay tuned for more new offerings.

Happy (dreaming about) Gardening!

Posted by Neil Moran at 9:11 AM



Labels: annual, black, black velvet, flowers, petunia

0 comments:

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