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Article by: [KIM PALMER](#), Star Tribune | Updated: May 17, 2011 - 11:50 AM

Time to plant something new? To give you ideas, we asked local plant pros to tell us about their favorites - both brand-new introductions and a few old reliables.



PowWow Wilde Berry coneflower

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Black petunia

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1. Plant it black | Annual • Size: 8-12 inches • Best in: Full sun

Black flowers have long been a Holy Grail for plant breeders. And this season, the quest takes a big step forward with the new Black Velvet petunia. "It's an important breeding breakthrough," said Debbie Lonnee, horticulturist with Bailey Nurseries. Black flowers aren't for everyone, said Peggy Poore, owner of Uncommon Gardens in Minneapolis, but she considers them the horticultural equivalent of the little black dress. "Black makes all other colors look good." If all-black petals are too funereal for your taste, there are two other new black petunias. **Phantom** features a yellowish streak down each petal, while **Pinstripe** is streaked with pale purple-pink. All three new petunias are mounded in form, rather than trailing.

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