

As Always! OUR READERS' BEST **BUDGET TIPS**

Garden Gate®

2023's BEST NEW PLANTS

for Sun & Shade

BIGGER & BETTER!
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Garden Gate
TOP PICKS

2023's Best New Plants

There's no better way to ring in the New Year than by settling in with a warm drink and a few garden catalogs so you can start dreaming of next year. One of the first things that catches my eye (and I bet yours too!) are the new plant introductions.

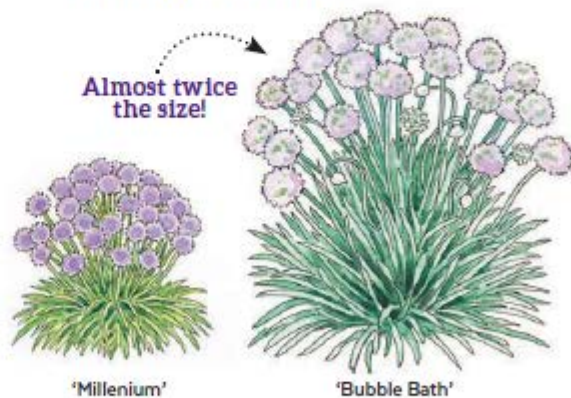
WHAT'S NEW? Maybe you're looking for an out-of-the-ordinary color or larger-than-usual flowers. And who can resist foliage in rich hues and head-turning variegation? Keep reading to meet plants with these characteristics and more new perennials, annuals, shrubs and vegetables that we think show a lot of promise this year. Just be sure to shop early, though. As usual, the new plants sell out quickly. Let's take a look at new plants for 2023!

— Sherri Ribbey

'Bubble Bath' allium *Allium hybrid*

Summer-blooming, clump-forming 'Bubble Bath' allium is bound to be an even bigger hit than its classic cousin 'Millenium'. Yes, it's just as easy to care for and has lots of flowers that pollinators love. But these blooms are significantly bigger — 3 inches in diameter — making it a real showstopper!

Perennial **What's new:** Large 3-in. lavender blooms in summer
Light: Full sun to part shade **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 26 to 28 in. tall, 24 to 26 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 4 to 8
Introducer: Walters Gardens, Inc. **Source:** Sooner Plant Farm, soonerplantfarm.com, 918-453-0771



ILLUSTRATIONS: Callie Hamilton

**2023
NEW PLANT
GIVEAWAYS**



ENTER TO WIN FREE PLANTS!

This spring you'll have a chance to win a box of annuals from Proven Winners® and vegetable plants from Burpee® Home Garden. Visit GGMagExtra.com for links to the plant giveaway signups.



1 'Jewel' coreopsis *Coreopsis hybrid*

This new coreopsis cultivar is covered with delicately painted blooms — a clear yellow center fades to white with a vibrant lilac edge. It works well with lots of different flower colors in the border. And its threadleaf foliage has excellent disease resistance.

Perennial **What's new:** Pale yellow summer-to-fall flowers have a lavender edge **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 10 to 12 in. tall, 14 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 5 to 10 **Introducer:** Terra Nova® Nurseries, Inc. **Source:** Local garden centers

2 'Coral Red' hen and chicks *Sempervivum hybrid*

Whether you grow hen and chicks as a ground cover or container accent, these vibrant red (redder than most!) rosettes will turn heads. One "hen" can grow up to 6 inches across, and plants keep this color year-round when you grow them in full sun.

Perennial **What's new:** Bright red foliage color all season **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Sandy, well drained **Size:** 3 to 4 in. tall, 6 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 4 to 9 **Introducer:** Concept Plants **Source:** Logees Greenhouses, 860-774-8038, logees.com

3 'Red Lark' delphinium *Delphinium x hybrida*

This new delphinium grows the classic spike filled with individual flowers. But they're coral-red instead of the typical blue, purple or white palette. The blooms are sterile, which means there's no pausing to form seed and you get plenty of stems for bouquets.

Perennial **What's new:** Coral-red spikes in late spring to summer **Light:** Full sun to part shade **Soil:** Moist, well drained **Size:** 24 to 28 in. tall, 16 to 18 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 5 to 8 **Introducer:** Darwin Perennials® **Source:** Jung Seed, 800-247-5864, jungseed.com

4 Minibeckia™ Flame rudbeckia *Rudbeckia hybrid*

Easy-care plants produce loads of these big 4- to 6-inch semidouble blooms from summer to frost. Go ahead and cut as many stems for bouquets as you'd like because it encourages more flowers to form.

Perennial **What's new:** Big, semidouble yellow-orange blooms with a red center **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 18 to 22 in. tall and wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 5 to 9 **Introducer:** GardenChoice™ **Source:** Local garden centers

5 'Dark Side of the Moon' astilbe *Astilbe hybrid*

This gorgeous astilbe is full of surprises. The foliage is a deep chocolate brown and it flowers best in full sun, producing loads of purple blooms. Just be sure to water regularly to prevent crispy leaves.

Perennial **What's new:** Deep chocolate-brown foliage topped by rosy purple blooms in mid- to late summer **Light:** Full sun to part shade **Soil:** Moist, well drained **Size:** 20 to 22 in. tall, 24 to 28 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 4 to 9 **Introducer:** Proven Winners® **Source:** Great Garden Plants, 877-477-4769, greatgardenplants.com



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF TERRA NOVA® NURSERIES, INC. (1); COURTESY OF CONCEPT PLANTS (2); COURTESY OF BALL HORTICULTURAL COMPANY (3); COURTESY OF GARDEN GENETICS (4); COURTESY OF WALTERS GARDENS INC. (5)



1 'Copper King' heucherella

Heucherella hybrid

Add warmth to your shade garden with the 5-inch-wide coppery red leaves of this pretty heucherella. Newer growth has a yellow edge for a multicolored look earlier in the season. Small white flowers show up in spring. Cut the spent stems off below the foliage to tidy things up.

Perennial **What's new:** Color-changing foliage matures to coppery red **Light:** Part to full shade **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 10 to 12 in. tall, 18 to 20 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 4 to 9 **Introducer:** Walters Gardens, Inc. **Source:** NH Hostas, 603-879-0085, nhhostas.com

2 'Voices In the Wind' hosta

Hosta hybrid

This new hosta with creamy yellow-edged leaves stands out from the rest, adding movement and texture with its heavily ruffled edge. Lavender flowers attract hummingbirds in mid- to late summer.

Perennial **What's new:** Blue-green leaves with a creamy yellow margin and ruffled edge **Light:** Part to full shade **Soil:** Moist, well drained **Size:** 17 in. tall with 24- to 29-in. flower scapes, 46 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 3 to 9 **Introducer:** Proven Winners® **Source:** NH Hostas, 603-879-0085, nhhostas.com

3 'Raspberry Frost' pulmonaria

Pulmonaria hybrid

Silver spots and a distinctive creamy edge make this new pulmonaria one you won't want to miss out on. Strawberry-red blooms arrive in early spring before the foliage emerges.

Perennial **What's new:** Long leaves have the traditional spots but also a creamy edge **Light:** Part to full shade **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 8 to 10 in. tall, 18 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 4 to 9 **Introducer:** Terra Nova® Nurseries, Inc. **Source:** Local garden centers

4 'Golden Feathers' Jacob's ladder

Polemonium pulcherrimum

'Golden Feathers' may be small, but its bright and bold foliage will bring some bling to your shade garden. In late spring to early summer you get the added bonus of dainty blue-purple flowers. Grow it at the front of the border to draw visitors over for a closer look.

Perennial **What's new:** Variegated green and gold foliage all season **Light:** Part to full shade **Soil:** Moist, well drained **Size:** 6 to 8 in. tall, 12 to 14 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 5 to 9 **Introducer:** Darwin Perennials® **Source:** Garden Crossings™, 616-875-6355, gardencrossings.com



PHOTOS: Courtesy of Walters Gardens (1), courtesy of Proven Winners (2), courtesy of TERRA NOVA® Nurseries, Inc. www.terranovanurseries.com (3), courtesy of Ball Horticultural Company (4)

1 Lucky Devil™ ninebark***Physocarpus opulifolius***

Instead of the usual green or burgundy foliage, Lucky Devil has golden yellow leaves. They hold their color better from spring to late summer than some other varieties, then change to orange in fall. White spring flowers add interest, and bees love them.

Shrub **What's new:** Golden yellow foliage spring to fall with white spring flowers **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 3 to 4 ft. tall and wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 3 to 7 **Introducer:** First Editions® **Source:** Local garden centers

2 Pink Bijou™ crape myrtle***Lagerstroemia indica***

Part of the Emerald Empire® series, Pink Bijou has the same gorgeous green foliage but is smaller than others in the group — just 5 feet tall and up to 6 feet wide. So even if you have a small garden, you can enjoy the bright pink spring blooms of crape myrtle.

Shrub **What's new:** A smaller crape myrtle covered in pink blooms **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 5 ft. tall, 6 ft. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 6 to 9 **Introducer:** J. Berry Nursery **Source:** Local garden centers

3 Vinho Verde™ weigela***Weigela florida***

This new weigela is grown more for its striking foliage than its light crop of red-pink blooms in spring. Occasionally a stem will revert to all black, but it's not likely to take over. You can cut it off near the base to preserve a uniform look.

Shrub **What's new:** Green leaves with black edges **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 3 to 5 ft. tall and wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 5 to 8 **Introducer:** Proven Winners® **Source:** Garden Crossings™, 616-875-6355, gardencrossings.com

4 Banana Split® daphne***Daphne odora***

With variegated foliage like this, Banana Split will be quite the statement plant even in part shade. Grow it next to an entry or along a path where you can get an up-close look at the leaves and enjoy the fragrant pink spring blooms.

Shrub **What's new:** Beautiful variegated leaves **Light:** Full sun to part shade **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 4 ft. tall and wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 7 to 9 **Introducer:** Monrovia® **Source:** Local garden centers



PHOTOS: Courtesy of First Editions® Shrubs & Trees (1); courtesy of J. Berry Nursery (2); courtesy of Proven Winners® ColorChoice® Shrubs (3); Deeren L. Wynia © for Monrovia (4)



Boxwood Blight Solutions

If you've been waiting to plant more boxwoods because you're concerned about blight, here are a couple of options.



Heritage™ boxwood *Buxus hybrid*

The Better Boxwood series is super disease resistant so you can grow it even in areas with boxwood blight. Heritage has an upright habit but others in the group are lower growing or larger so there's something for everyone.

Shrub What's new: Great resistance to boxwood blight
Light Full sun to part shade **Soil** Well-drained **Size**: 3 to 4 ft. tall, 2 to 3 ft. wide **Cold hardy**: USDA zones 5 to 9
Introducer: Better Boxwood™ **Source**: Local garden centers



Copper Glow box honeysuckle *Lonicera nitida*

For a boxwood substitute, try Copper Glow box honeysuckle. It's evergreen, has a naturally rounded shape (no pruning needed) and the glossy green leaves have coppery red new growth as you can see in the photo.

Shrub What's new: Evergreen disease-resistant foliage
Light Full sun to part shade **Soil** Well-drained **Size**: 2 to 3 ft. tall and wide **Cold hardy**: USDA zones 6 to 9
Introducer: Southern Living® Plant Collection **Source**: Local garden centers

2023'S BEST NEW ANNUALS & TENDER PERENNIALS

1 **XXL 'Grand Prismatic' dahlia** *Dahlia* hybrid

When you want drama in a container or near the front of the border, the big, 5-inch flowers of XXL 'Grand Prismatic' are a great choice. Plants have a tidy habit that doesn't usually need staking.

Tender perennial **What's new:** Large pink-and-yellow-streaked blooms **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 16 to 22 in. tall, 12 to 18 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 8 to 10 **Introducer:** Dümmer Orange® **Source:** Local garden centers

2 **Fun House™ Papaya petunia** *Petunia* hybrid

Petunias are a staple of summer containers, but this new variety from the Fun House™ series will add some punch to the usual combo with its pink and yellow blooms. It has a mounding habit and moderate size that will make a statement without completely taking over.

Tender perennial **What's new:** Bright yellow blooms edged with pink from late spring to fall **Light:** Full sun to part shade **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 10 to 14 in. tall, 18 to 22 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 9 to 11 **Introducer:** Syngenta® Flowers **Source:** Local garden centers

3 **Rift Blue lobelia** *Lobelia* hybrid

With splashy blue and white blooms, Rift Blue lobelia makes a cool container companion for your patio or deck. Well-branched plants produce plenty of flowers and tolerate the summer heat well.

Tender perennial **What's new:** Blue and white flowers from spring to fall **Light:** Full sun to part shade **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 8 to 12 in. tall, 6 to 8 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 9 to 11 **Introducer:** Westhoff **Source:** Local garden centers

4 **Belize™ Double Scarlet zinnia** *Zinnia* hybrid

There are other bedding-type zinnias out there, but Belize Double Scarlet is just 8 inches tall! It fits right in at the front of any border for a nonstop ribbon of color. Plants are drought tolerant and don't need deadheading.

Annual **What's new:** Petite plants with loads of colorful flowers **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 8 in. tall, 12 in. wide **Introducer:** American Takii, Inc. **Source:** Local garden centers

5 **AngelDance™ Fuchsia angelonia** *Angelonia angustifolia*

When you want a colorful statement plant, give this angelonia a try. It's taller than many other varieties and has big bicolor blooms from late spring to frost.

Tender perennial **What's new:** Bicolor fuchsia and white flowers from spring to frost **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 14 to 18 in. tall, 12 to 14 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 10 to 11 **Introducer:** Ball FloraPlant® **Source:** Local garden centers



PHOTO: Courtesy of Takii & Co., Ltd. (4)



2023'S BEST NEW ANNUALS & TENDER PERENNIALS

1 Mega Pazzaz™ Pink Twist purslane

Portulaca oleracea

You can't miss the vibrant blooms on this new addition to the Mega Pazzaz series — they practically pulsate! Pink Twist is super heat- and drought-tolerant and looks great in the ground or trailing over the edge of a pot.

Tender perennial **What's new:** Yellow- and pink-striped blooms from spring to fall **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 14 to 16 in. tall, 16 to 18 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 8 to 12 **Introducer:** Danziger Flower Farm **Source:** Local garden centers

2 'Incredible! Sea Shells' coreopsis

Coreopsis hybrid

A reintroduction of an heirloom variety, 'Incredible! Sea Shells' is an annual coreopsis. Its 1½- to 2-inch blooms have fluted petals and come in a mix of colors with swishes and splashes. Use it to edge your cottage garden and fill containers — you'll have plenty of stems for summer bouquets.

Annual **What's new:** Fluted multicolored blooms from late spring to fall **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 18 to 24 in. tall, 12 in. wide **Introducer and source:** Select Seeds, 800-684-0395, selectseeds.com

3 'Orange Glow' geranium *Pelargonium hybrid*

For an interesting twist on the traditional red or orange blooms, try 'Orange Glow'. It combines the two colors for a glowing ember look you'll love. Plants are heat tolerant but need regular water to bloom their best.

Tender perennial **What's new:** Loads of orange-red blooms with a purple splash from late spring to fall **Light:** Full sun to part shade **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 18 in. tall, 12 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 10 to 11 **Introducer:** PAC® **Source:** Local garden centers

4 Lusclous® Basket Tangelo™ lantana

Lantana camara

Butterflies love lantana. And when we grew this new variety in the Lusclous series, there were plenty of them visiting these blooms! Plants produce little to no seeds, which helped the plants we grew bloom nonstop, providing reliable color for the containers in our test garden.

Tender perennial **What's new:** Peach, orange and yellow flowers from late spring to frost **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 12 to 26 in. tall, 12 to 24 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 9 to 11 **Introducer:** Proven Winners® **Source:** Garden Crossings, 616-875-6355, gardencrossings.com

5 Solarscape™ Impatiens *Impatiens hybrida*

Solarscape is a new series that grows best in the sun. Plants bloom prolifically like bedding types and have great disease resistance. There are four colors: Neon Purple (in the photo), Orange Burst, Magenta Bliss and White Shimmer.

Annual **What's new:** Sun-loving impatiens **Light:** Full sun to part shade **Soil:** Moist, well drained **Size:** 9 to 11 in. tall, 15 to 20 in. wide **Introducer:** Pan American Seed® Co. **Source:** Local garden centers



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SELECT SEEDS, UNION, CT (2); COURTESY OF PAC ELISNER / WESTHOFF - WWW.PAC-ELISNER.COM / WWW.WESTFLOWER.DE (3); COURTESY OF BALL HORTICULTURAL COMPANY (5)



1 Ninetta™ begonia *Begonia hybrid*

Enjoy the rich chocolate-brown, silver-spotted and crinkly edged leaves of Ninetta begonia inside or out. Give it part shade in the garden and a bright sunny room indoors. It has soft pink flowers in summer to fall.

Tender perennial **What's new:** Dramatic leaf pattern and color
Light: Part shade **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 2 ft. tall, 3 ft. wide
Cold hardy: USDA zones 10 to 11 **Introducer:** Monrovia® **Source:** Local garden centers

2 Sweet Caroline Upside™ Key Lime sweet potato vine *Ipomoea batatas*

Key Lime is from the Upside series of sweet potato vines that climb. You could let it trail over the edge of a pot, but Key Lime has tendrils that help it grow up a structure. We grew it on an obelisk at our test garden last summer and enjoyed the long-lasting foliage color, texture and height.

Tender perennial **What's new:** Climbing habit **Light:** Full sun to part shade **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 36 to 72 in. tall, 18 to 36 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 8 to 11 **Introducer:** Proven Winners® **Source:** Garden Crossings™, 616-875-6355, gardencrossings.com

3 Pistachio™ White tradescantia *Tradescantia hybrid*

Whether you want a houseplant or a gorgeous spiller at the front of your patio containers (or both!), Pistachio White is your plant. It has broad white stripes and vigorous growth — not always the case with variegated plants.

Tender perennial **What's new:** Cool variegation **Light:** Part shade **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 4 to 6 in. tall, 24 to 30 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 8 to 11 **Introducer:** Green Fuse® Botanicals, Inc. **Source:** Local garden centers

4 Royal Hawaiian® 'Walkiki' colocasia *Colocasia hybrid*

Get loads of drama in your backyard with 'Walkiki', a new clump-forming colocasia in the Royal Hawaiian series. The eye-popping splash of color can be variable but gets more pronounced as the plant matures.

Tender perennial **What's new:** Gorgeous variegated foliage
Light: Full sun **Soil:** Moist, well drained **Size:** 3 ft. tall and wide
Cold hardy: USDA zones 7 to 11 **Introducer:** PlantHaven International, Inc. **Source:** Plant Delights Nursery, 919-772-4794, plantdelights.com



PHOTOS: © Monrovia Nursery Co. (1), courtesy of Green Fuse Botanicals, Inc. (3); courtesy of PlantHaven International, planthaven.com (4)

1 Peppers from Heaven pepper***Capsicum annuum***

When you don't have a lot of room, these sweet peppers are a great choice. Each compact plant produces a single color of either red, yellow or orange peppers. We got loads of fruit from the plants we grew — they were almost too pretty to pick!

Annual **What's new:** Orange, red or yellow peppers on compact plants **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Well drained **Size:** 6 to 8 in. tall, 6 to 12 in. wide **Introducer:** Burpee® Home Gardens **Source:** Local garden centers

2 Sapphire Cascade™ blueberry***Vaccinium hybrid***

Just like the name implies, Sapphire Cascade blueberry will trail over the edge of a container. You can even grow it in a hanging basket! Place it where you can grab a handful of the classic sweet berries and enjoy the red that colors the foliage in fall.

Shrub **What's new:** A small-sized trailing blueberry **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Acid, well drained **Size:** 18 to 24 in. tall, trailing **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 5 to 9 **Introducer:** Bushel and Berry® **Source:** Local garden centers

3 Petite Pickles French cornichon***Cucumis anguria***

Though not true cucumbers, French cornichons are similar with smaller leaves and vines. This variety is early and vigorous, with lots of fruit. Harvest them small, at just a few inches long, for easy pickling.

Annual **What's new:** Earlier fruit on vigorous vines **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Moist, well drained **Size:** Vines up to 5 ft. long **Introducer & source:** Renee's Garden, 888-880-7228, reneesgarden.com

4 Preakness watermelon***Citrullus hybrid***

At 4 to 6 pounds, these adorable little watermelons won't take up much room in the refrigerator and they have plenty of flavor and no seeds! To ensure that the flowers are pollinated, grow it with another watermelon variety that flowers around the same time, such as Ace Plus (which has seeds). The nice thing about this companion is that the fruit is lighter green so it's easy to tell the two watermelons apart.

Annual **What's new:** A seedless mini watermelon **Light:** Full sun **Soil:** Moist, well drained **Size:** 6-ft.-long vines **Introducer:** Sakata® Seed **Source:** Local garden centers

