

The American GARDENER®

The Magazine of the American Horticultural Society

January / February 2013

fashionable Currants

New Plants for 2013

Kelly Griffin: Master
Hybridizer of Succulents

Chelsea Flower Show
Celebrates 100 Years



contents

Volume 92, Number 1 · January / February 2013

FEATURES



14 NEW FOR 2013

BY MARY YEE

Our annual look at some of the new plants that will be available for home gardens this spring.

20 KELLY GRIFFIN

BY NAN STERMAN

If you've purchased a colorful succulent recently, it might well be one introduced by this prolific California-based hybridizer.



26 CHELSEA TURNS 100

BY MARTY WINGATE

The grand dame of flower shows, located in London, celebrates a century of showcasing gardening at its finest.

32 TRUE TO SEED

BY GRAHAM RICE

When growing plants from seed, it's important to understand that not all seeds produce plants that resemble their parents.

37 A NEW ERA FOR CURRANTS

BY JO ANN GARDNER

Attractive and tasty currants are gaining popularity in the edible landscape.

DEPARTMENTS

5 NOTES FROM RIVER FARM

6 MEMBERS' FORUM

8 NEWS FROM THE AHS

The American Horticultural Society celebrates 40th anniversary at River Farm, 2013 seed exchange catalog available for members, 2013 AHS Travel Study Program destinations, new AHS website launching soon, register your community for 2013 America in Bloom competition.

12 AHS MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Russell Studebaker.

42 HOMEGROWN HARVEST

Fresh figs can't be beat.

44 GARDEN SOLUTIONS

Success with seeds.

46 GARDENER'S NOTEBOOK

Downy mildew epidemic strikes impatiens in 2012, renewable energy facilities may threaten native plants, western wildfire recovery slowed by seed shortages, why plant-eating insects are important, new fern genus named for pop star, Lady Bird Johnson featured on postage stamp, Jeffrey Downing is new director for Mt. Cuba Center, High Country Gardens closes.

Green Garage: Tools for winter gardening.

52 BOOK REVIEWS

Beautiful No-Mow Yards, Lawn Gone! and *Why Grow That When You Can Grow This?*

Special focus: Garden biographies and memoirs.

54 REGIONAL HAPPENINGS

57 2013 SEED EXCHANGE LIST

61 HARDINESS AND HEAT ZONES AND PRONUNCIATIONS

62 PLANT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Flannel bush.

ON THE COVER: Red-flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) is an early-blooming species native from the coast of British Columbia to central California. Photograph by Mark Turner

New for 2013

BY MARY YEE

ANOTHER GARDENING season will soon be here, so it's time to see what new plants will be competing for our attention come spring. Horticulturists, garden writers, and landscape designers are often encouraged by seed and plant companies to give new introductions a test run before the plants hit the retail market, so we asked a number of these professionals for their feedback on the plants that stood out in their gardens last season. Among the experts we consulted are: **Mark Dwyer**, director of horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin; **Bob Hill**, a nurseryowner and garden writer in Jeffersonville, Indiana; **Patricia A. Taylor**, a garden writer in Princeton, New Jersey; **Heather Will-Browne**, horticulturist with the Walt Disney Company in Orlando, Florida; **Robert Bowden**, director of Leu Gardens in Orlando, Florida; **Allen Owings**, professor of horticulture at Louisiana State University's AgCenter-Hammond Research Station; **Paul Lee Cannon**, a garden writer from Oakland, California; **Phyllis Gricus**, a landscape designer in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; **Marcia Tatroe**, a garden writer in Centennial, Colorado; and **Mary-Kate Mackey**, a garden writer in Portland, Oregon. We've included some of their recommendations here, along with other new introductions that caught our eyes and are worth trying in the garden come spring.

A few plants that performed especially well for our experts include *Heuchera* 'Paprika', *Echinacea* 'Cheyenne Spirit' (this page), Superbells® Lemon Slice hybrid calibrachoa, and Santa Cruz™ Sunset begonia (page 16). Peach Sorbet blueberry got rave reviews as both an ornamental and edible (page 17). And 'Lilac Chip' butterfly bush was lauded by several gardeners for its compact size and floriferousness (page 18).

Look for these and many other new plants this coming spring to give your garden a fresh look for 2013.

Mary Yee is managing editor and art director of *The American Gardener*.

PERENNIALS



Heat-tolerant *Heuchera* 'Paprika' is "destined to become one of the most popular 'orange' coral bells," says Mark Dwyer. Bob Hill notes that the "almost startling orange-peach color of the leaves held up well in the summer heat, even in areas with a little more sun." Plants grow about eight inches tall and spread about 16 inches. Stalks of small white flowers are borne in early summer. Plants do best in part shade, except in the Pacific Northwest. Mary-Kate Mackey, who lives in Oregon, says, "I grew this glowing orange mound of large leaves in full sun, paired with peach-colored roses." USDA Hardiness Zones 4–9, AHS Heat Zones 9–1. Terra Nova Nurseries.



An All-America Selections winner for 2013, *Echinacea* 'Cheyenne Spirit' is a seed-propagated coneflower in a mixture of colors from purple, red, and yellow to cream and white. Allen Owings says 'Cheyenne Spirit' was among "the top 10 new plant performers in the 2012 LSU AgCenter flowering plant trials." Plants grow 18 to 30 inches tall and spread 10 to 20 inches wide. Like other coneflowers, this one tolerates drought. Mark Dwyer adds that it's "perfect for the sunny border or butterfly garden." Zones 3–9, 9–1. Kieft Seed.