



Region-By-Region
PERENNIAL PICKS
READER RECOMMENDED! page 16

**6 EASY PLANTS, 3 SIMPLE
(YET STUNNING) DESIGNS**
page 22

Garden Gate

August 2011 • Issue 100
www.GardenGateMagazine.com

*Sizzling
Summer
Issue!*

**THE SECRET to
CONTINUOUS
COLOR in Your Garden** page 32

**Fix a FAILING
CONTAINER** page 8

**THE POWER of PURPLE:
USE IT LIKE A PRO!** page 28

**5 WAYS You Can
Help Your Garden NOW** page 48

EASY-CARE
**COLORFUL
PERENNIALS**
for Sun & Shade
pages 10 & 12



contents

august 2011
issue no. 100

Thank you

We'd like to thank you for the passion you have for gardening and for being a part of the **Garden Gate** family, whether you've been with us for just a few issues or from the very beginning.

—The staff of Garden Gate

in every issue

- AT HOME GARDENER**
tips for a beautiful garden.....**6**
- BEFORE & AFTER**
make over
a tired container.....**8**
- GARDEN GATE'S TOP PICKS**
readers' regional favorites **16**
- DESIGN CHALLENGE**
make your patio perfect **38**
- FROM THE DRAWING BOARD**
beat the heat retreat..... **40**
- CONTAINER RECIPE**
bursting with blooms **43**
- NOTES FROM THE TEST GARDEN**
summer's here:
what to do now! **48**
- EDITOR'S CHOICE**
3 long-blooming lilies **50**

features

- Colorful Coral Bells..... 10**
Check out eight great new coral bells in a wide palette of foliage and flower colors!
- ON THE COVER:**
Grow the Best Garden Phlox Ever!..... 12
We've got design techniques and growing tips for this perennial standard that'll make your garden shine.
- Sunny Solutions 22**
We took six easy-care plants and created three beautiful designs anyone can grow.
- Sturdy Stakes..... 26**
Give your plants the support they need — learn the best way to keep them standing tall this summer.
- Rich, Royal Purple..... 28**
This intense color can create different effects in your garden. Find out how to make an impact with the power of purple.

departments

- reader tips **4**
- from the wild side **5**
- what's new **44**
- did you know? **45**
- ask *Garden Gate* **46**
- weed watch..... **47**
- finishing touches..... **52**

Secrets of Summer-Long Color..... 32

Does your garden suffer from "flower drought"? Learn design tips that will keep your garden colorful all summer long.

ON THE COVER: Midsummer is when this yellow ligularia, pink persicaria and white phlox really shine. Photo: Jack Coyier

ON THE BACK COVER: Morning light dances across a broad sweep of purple coneflower. Photo: Jack Coyier

Making more coral bells



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Colorful Coral Bells

Find the perfect foliage (and flower) colors for your garden!



'Palace Purple'

CORAL BELLS *Heuchera* hybrids

Perennial
Flowers in white, green, pink, coral or red from late spring to summer

Foliage in lots of colors (evergreen in mild-winter zones)

Full sun to part shade

Humus-rich, moist, well-drained soil

Pests — even deer — don't bother coral bells

6 to 24 in. tall (foliage height; flowers add 8 to 12 in.), 9 to 36 in. wide

Cold-hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9

Heat-tolerant in AHS zones 9 to 1

When you think of colorful plants, coral bells might not be the first perennials that spring to mind. But with all the new ones available these days, they really should be. I'll show you eight great coral bells here with leaves in a palette of colors. They're huge and crinkly, tightly ruffled or even undulating. Plus, you'll see one with large flowers and a couple that even rebloom! Compared to older coral bells like 'Palace Purple', these take more sun (the darker the leaf color, the more sun-tolerant they are). And 'Brownies' and 'Electra' also handle summer humidity better than older cultivars. Now let's look at this kaleidoscope of coral bells you'll want to know and grow!

1 'ELECTRA' The yellow spring foliage of this plant brightens up even full shade beds and does it with a zap of bright red on every leaf! White flowers open atop wiry stems in summer about the time the leaves change to chartreuse. And no matter how hot and humid your summer gets, this 6- to 8-inch-tall, 9- to 14-inch-wide plant holds up great.

2 'SASHAY' Extreme ruffling of the foliage of 'Sashay' causes both the green top surfaces and the burgundy undersides to show from above for a dramatic, bicolored effect. By comparison, the pink summer flowers are subtle. Frilly, 12- to 18-inch-tall-and-wide 'Sashay' does best in full sun to light shade.

3 DOLCE® MOCHA MINT® It has the same compact habit (8 to 16 inches tall, 10 to 14 inches wide) and heart-shaped leaves common to the other plants in the Dolce series. But the coral flowers of Mocha Mint that open in both spring and fall set it apart from the group. Plant it at the edge of a path or in a pretty pot where you'll be sure to see and enjoy the green-veined silver leaves.

4 'BROWNIES' What 'Brownies' lacks in sizzle, it more than makes up for in sheer size. It can reach 12 to 18 inches tall and 24 to 36 inches wide! The huge crinkled chocolate-brown leaves with a purple-red reverse look great contrasted with the chartreuse grass below. Cream-white flowers rise above the coral bells' huge leaves in summer.



Chartreuse livens the subtle leaves of 'Brownies'.

5 'MIDNIGHT ROSE' Though its white summer flowers are inconspicuous, the dramatic purple-black foliage is splashed with hot pink spots in spring. Its small size — 10 to 12 inches tall and 12 to 16 inches wide — makes it a hit at the front of the border or in containers, where you can appreciate the unusual leaves. Pair it with pink impatiens to play up the spots from summer to fall.

6 'GEORGIA PEACH' Splashy 8-inch peach-pink leaves of this coral bells stand up well to both winter cold and summer heat. Not only that, they take on a pretty rose-purple tint in fall and winter. Demure cream flowers rise above the bold leaves in early summer. 'Georgia Peach' is 12 to 16 inches tall and 18 to 24 inches wide.

7 'HOLLYWOOD' Though the lightly ruffled, silver-overlaid dark purple leaves of 'Hollywood' are captivating, the big deal about this coral bells is huge blooms. It produces dark coral flowers in late spring and even reblooms in summer! At 8 to 12 inches tall and 10 to 12 inches wide, this plant will keep you in color for most of the season.

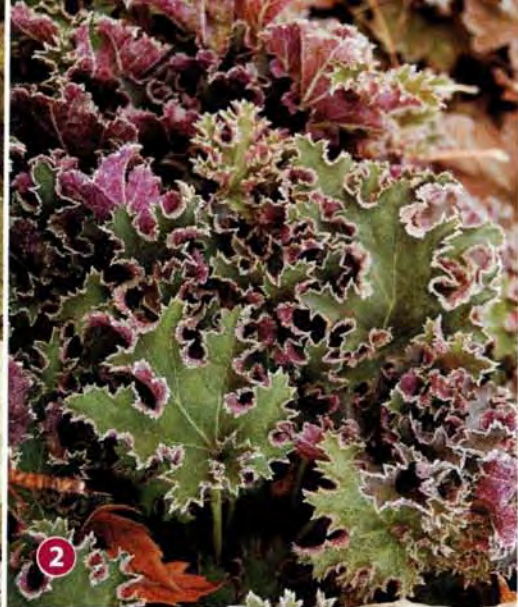
8 'MARMALADE' Heavily ruffled amber, peach and bronze coral bells have been around for a while. But at 6 to 10 inches tall and 8 to 12 inches wide, 'Marmalade' is a much more vigorous cultivar. Pair it with bold leaves, as I've done below. As a bonus, tiny red-brown flowers open on 18-inch stems in late spring.



Contrast 'Marmalade's' frilly leaves with bold foliage.

I hope this small sampling gives you a taste of these fantastic, colorful coral bells! □

— Deborah Gruca



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