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Serving the Nursery, Greenhouse and Horticultural Industry



Nurseries eligible for SBA disaster loans

By CAROL KINSLEY

The U.S. Small Business Administration is reminding businesses that April 21 is the filing deadline for federal economic injury disaster loans that are available to small businesses located in the entire State of Maryland as a result of damages and losses to crops caused by drought and excessive heat occurring June 1, 2007, and continuing.

In addition, "Delaware is eligible because its counties are contiguous to one or more primary counties in the State of Maryland. The Small Business Administration recognizes that disasters do not usually stop at

the county or state lines. For that reason, counties adjacent to primary counties named in the declaration are included," said Frank Skaggs, director of SBA Field Operations Center East.

Also eligible because of the contiguous rule are the District of Columbia; in Pennsylvania, the counties of Adams, Bedford, Chester, Frankling, Fulton, Lancaster, Somerset and York; in Virginia, Accomack, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon and the Independent City of Alexandria; and in West Virginia, Berkeley, Hampshire, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan.

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MNLA meets on H-2A overhaul

By CAROL KINSLEY

A "plethora of changes" were

source of seasonal labor.

NCAE is interested in hearing from agricultural employers who are not current users of the H-2A program

Terra Nova names 'Top 20' new varieties for 2008

Terra Nova Nurseries, a world leader in plant breeding and genetics, has introduced its new 2008 varieties to the marketplace, including its Top 20 Plants, which the nursery projects to be some of the year's most popular choices at the garden center.

The team at Terra Nova Nurseries has distinguished its Top 20 new plants based on previous gardening trends, research and breeding excellence for the home gardener. Through extensive trials and genetic development among hundreds of new offerings bred by Terra Nova Nurseries, the 20 plants were chosen for their superiority in solving common landscape challenges and troublesome environmental conditions facing today's gardeners.

"The Terra Nova Top 20 plants are those which we feel contribute to bringing the utmost in performance and reliability to gardeners of the world," said Dan Heims, co-owner and president of Terra Nova Nurseries. "New breeding is the lifeblood of the horticulture industry; these new varieties are the crème de la crème of genetics, which equates to successful, garden-worthy plants."

Terra Nova's Top 20 in 2008 will include the following: *Athyrium* 'Ocean's Fury'; *Begonia* 'Madame Queen' and 'Metallic Mist'; *Campanula* 'Blue-Eyed Blonde' and 'Pink Octopus'; *Coreopsis* 'Gold Nugget' and 'Moonlight'; *Cyclamen*



Begonia 'Madame Queen' — a stunning variety with large, glossy, copper-colored leaves, ruffled and frilled edges and a red reverse side. Prominent, light-green veins radiate from the center of the leaves. Hardy in zones 11 to 13, this tropical begonia needs moderate to heavy nutrition, full shade to filtered light and a pH of 6 to 7. It has tall sprays of deep-pink flowers.



Coreopsis 'Gold Nugget' is an amazing bloomer with more than 200 warm, gold flowers per plant, each with a blazing-red eye. This perennial blooms continuously for three to four months and thrives in heat and humidity. Easy to grow, 'Gold Nugget' needs a well-established root system and good drainage to overwinter.

'Something Magic'; *Echinacea* 'Merlot,' 'Purity,' 'Tiki Torch' and 'Raspberry Tart'; *Helleborus* Regal Ruffles Strain; *Heuchera* 'Georgia Peach,' 'Mahogany' and 'Southern Comfort'; *Heucherella* 'Alabama Sunrise' and 'Tapestry'; *Hakonechloa* 'Stripe It Rich' and *Tiarella* 'Mystic Mist.'

Varieties such as Terra Nova Nurseries' *coreopsis* and *echinacea* have been selected and developed for performance in challenging environments, such as those suffering from drought, while the nursery's cultivation of *Heuchera* varieties results in those which are some of the most heat- and humidity-tolerant found worldwide.

"There has been a lot of recent discussion about the hardiness and performance of *Heuchera*s in hot and humid regions," said Heims. "Selections such as 'Mahogany,' 'Georgia Peach' and 'Southern Comfort' put this to rest; they demonstrate the value of extensive research, testing and trials as well as the significant possibilities that exist in new plant development."

Terra Nova Nurseries has introduced over 460 intriguing and robust new varieties for the landscape and garden. The nursery is an industry leader in breeding technology, and the laboratory team's genetic development and advancement of *heuchera*, *tiarella*, *heucherella*, *echinacea* and *coreopsis* have set an industry standard. The Terra Nova team produces dozens of hardy new selections each year through expert flower breeding and laboratory research. These selections are then propagated through tissue culture to make large numbers of healthy plants available to home gardeners throughout North America. Terra Nova



Heucherella 'Alabama Sunrise' changes color with the season, from gold with red veins in summer to green in late summer, then orange-pink in the fall. Its flowers are small and white. Commonly known as foamy bells, *heucherella* does best in shade to part shade. 'Alabama Sunrise' is heat and humidity tolerant.



Campanula 'Blue-Eyed Blonde' has brilliant, gold foliage which gives rise to large 1-inch bells of deep blue flowers. This bellflower is a herbaceous perennial that spreads into a low-growing mat in full sun. Twelve weeks of dormancy is required for growth and optimal spring flowering.

Nurseries currently offers hundreds of varieties of unique perennials and annuals, many of which are top performers both in the United States as well as internationally, to independent garden centers, wholesalers and landscape professionals.

Visit Terra Nova Nurseries on the Web at www.terravanurseries.com.



The large, bright, pumpkin-orange flowers of *Echinacea* 'Tiki Torch' stand tall on upright, well-branched flowering stems. A herbaceous perennial, this coneflower requires full sun and a pH of 5.8 to 7.3; too low a pH may be fatal. Deadheading prolongs blooming.



Photos
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The huge, cinnamon-peach leaves of *Heuchera* 'Southern Comfort' make a bold foliage statement. The color changes from cinnamon-peach to burnished copper to amber. Creamy-white flowers erupt in late summer. This mounding herbaceous perennial needs shade to part shade and moist, well-drained soil. 'Southern Comfort' was bred to perform well in Southern humidity, the Midwest, the Northeast, or the Northwest.

SARE grants ...

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of season extension is largely lost. The project manager will train 12 university and Extension personnel and five growers on the topic of high tunnels from 2008 to 2010, using workshops, tours and field days to teach design, construction, temperature, pest management and other aspects of high-tunnel use. These Extension personnel and the grower educators will conduct trainings reaching 200 farmers, and 20 of those will adopt this technology with high tunnels on their farms.

Northeast SARE also offers smaller grants-capped at \$10,000-to farmers, agricultural service providers, and agriculturally oriented nonprofits. Northeast SARE serves Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. To learn more, go to www.uvm.edu/~nesare or call (802) 656-0471.