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12 A Clear Road Ahead

After five years of massive road construction and internal restructuring, Altum's has resurfaced with renewed focus and determination.

Cover Photo By Allison Niespodziany

18 Variety Central

Check out these new native plants that will help you beef up your spring sales.



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VARIETY CENTRAL

A fresh look at plants and merchandising driving sales.



TGC's
variety
central™

Sustainability is at the forefront of many consumers' purchasing decisions these days, and garden retailers have a prime opportunity to appeal to their customers' eco-friendly sides by offering an array of native plants that are easy on the eyes and the environment. Stock up on some of these native favorites to give your customers plenty of options for feel-good garden purchases this planting season.

The New Natives

Anthony Tesselaar

Volcano phlox from Anthony Tesselaar are remarkably tolerant of powdery mildew. Masses of large, fragrant flower clusters bloom from early summer through fall. Compact, multi-branched plants offer 15 to 30 stems by the second season. Ideal for growing in full sun to partial shade, Volcanos are hardy in Zones 4 to 8.



Garden Splendor

Coreopsis 'Pinwheel' offers soft yellow, pinwheel-shaped flowers that accent the bluish green foliage in summer through fall. Best used as a border plant or container accent, this perennial is excellent in mixed borders, as a groundcover and for edging. 'Pinwheel' thrives in full sun, is hardy to Zone 6 and reaches 2 feet tall by 3 feet wide.



Echinacea 'Pink Double Delight' is a highly unusual yet very showy form with 3-inch, pompom-like flowers carried on stiff stems. Each



clump produces multiple branching stems, making this plant very floriferous, reaching 2 feet tall and wide. Hardy to Zone 3, it can be used as an individual specimen or grouped

for long-lasting color. Gardeners can enjoy 'Pink Double Delight' in containers, wildflower meadows and cottage gardens.

Geum 'Mango Lassi' displays lovely, semi-double blooms in delicate shades of soft orange and mango with apricot veining. Flowering begins in early summer and can continue into fall. Well-branched flower stems are excellent for cutting, and foliage is dense, forming a neat, compact habit. Growing best in sun to partial shade, 'Mango Lassi' is hardy to Zone 5 and reaches 15 inches tall and 2 feet wide. It is ideal for mixed borders or woodland settings.



The foliage of heuchera 'Peach Flambe' starts out bright peach with red infusions in spring and early summer, finishing off with plum-purple in late fall and winter. White flowers are borne above foliage in early to mid summer. Thriving in sun to partial shade, 'Peach Flambe' is hardy to Zone 4. Perfect for mixed borders, rock gardens or lightly shaded, woodland settings.



Intrinsic Perennial Gardens

Lobelia cardinalis 'Golden Torch' has a fabulous combination of golden



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Coppertina physocarpus is a new hybrid between 'Dart's Gold' and Diabolo that flushes an attractive copper in spring and transforms to a rich red in summer. Hardy to Zone 3, it reaches 8 feet tall in full sun.



'Coppertina'

Cornus Arctic Sun is a brightly colored compact dogwood with rich yellow stems tipped with red coloration. Developed by Andre Van Nijnatten, the same breeder who brought us 'Winter Flame,' it reaches 4 feet tall in full to part sun and is hardy to Zone 4.



Arctic Sun

Itea Little Henry is a compact Sweetpire. Pure white flowers in early summer cover this low-mounded, compact shrub. Perfectly suited for flooding large banks, beds and borders, this plant has color like wildfire in fall. Hardy to Zone 5, it reaches up to 3 feet tall in full sun or full shade.



Little Henry

STEPABLES

Ajuga 'Chocolate Chip' offers small, chocolate chip colored foliage that forms a beautiful carpet. Blue flower spikes bloom in spring and autumn, creating interest beneath trees and shrubs, where little else can grow. Reaching 6 inches maximum in height, it is hardy to Zone 3.



'Chocolate Chip'

Fragaria 'Lipstick' has dark green, oval leaves that are the ideal backdrop for deep, rich pink flowers. 'Lipstick' blooms late spring to early fall until flowers give way to small, tasty red strawberries. Plants spread by above-ground runners, reaching 12 inches maximum in height. 'Lipstick' is hardy to Zone 4.



'Lipstick'

Sedum spurium 'John Creech' forms a tight mat as it spreads. Bright green stems root at every node, turning burgundy in the fall.

Foliage grows close together, making it ideal for pathways, patios and rock gardens. Hardy to zones 4 to 8, it grows in part to full sun.

Thymus 'Elfin' is a miniature thyme that forms a tight, solid mat of grayish green foliage and light pink flowers that bloom during summer. 'Elfin' creates a versatile groundcover that fills dry slopes, between stepping stones and over rocks. Hardy to Zones 4 to 8, it grows in part to full sun.



John Creech



'Elfin'

Terra Nova Nurseries

'Gold Nugget' coreopsis is an amazing bloomer with more than 200 warm, gold flowers, each with a blazing red eye. Blooming continuously for three to four months, it thrives in heat and humidity. Hardy to Zones 6 to 10, it has a mounding habit and reaches 2 feet tall by 3 feet wide.



Gold Nugget

Echinacea 'Merlot' sports large, rose-pink flowers with wine-red stems and petioles. Flower color deepens in cooler temperatures. Hardy to Zones 4 to 9, it reaches 34 inches tall and thrives in full sun.



'Merlot'

Echinacea 'Tiki Torch' features large, bright pumpkin-orange flowers on upright, well-branched flowering stems. Reaching 32 inches tall, it is hardy to Zones 4 to 9.



'Tiki Torch'

Heuchera 'Southern Comfort' has huge, cinnamon-peach leaves that make a bold foliage statement and change to burnished copper and then amber through the season. Creamy-white flowers erupt in late summer. It is hardy to Zones 4 to 9.



'Southern Comfort'