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THE MAGAZINE OF THE MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**BEST  
NEW PLANTS**

*Magical  
Magnolias*

*Bean  
BONANZA!*

MINNESOTA STATE  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY  
a not-for-profit organization



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*Raspberry Glow™ magnolia lives up to its name, adding a pink light to the spring landscape.*

*Photo courtesy of Klehm's Song Sparrow Nursery*

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Meleah Maynard

## New Perennials for 2013

**O**f course, there's no room in your gardens for more plants. There's no room in mine, either. But it's futile to try to resist the siren song of new plant introductions each spring. Surely, something can be scooped over a bit or given away if you find something you really like, right?

Here are some of the 2013 perennials I like best for cold-climate gardeners. See what you think.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALTERS GARDENS INC.



'Midnight Marvel' hibiscus

### **Hibiscus 'Midnight Marvel' PPAF**

I added hardy hibiscus to my gardens a few years back and they never fail to stop passersby who want to know, "What are those beautiful, exotic-looking plants?" 'Midnight Marvel' from Walters Gardens Inc. kicks things up a notch with this hibiscus, which grows to 48 inches tall and offers dark black-burgundy foliage with gorgeous red blooms that last from midsummer to fall. Full sun. USDA Zone 4.

### **Sedum 'Pure Joy' PPAF**

Even if you feel like you can take or leave sedum, 'Pure Joy' just might make your spring shopping list. This new introduction from Proven Winners® features striking pink, star-shaped blooms and delicate blue-green foliage unlike that of most sedums. Plants are deer-resistant and have a low, mounding form that tops out at about 12 inches tall. Full sun. Zone 3.

### **Rosa 'Zlesak Poly3' PPAF Oso Happy® Smoothie**

Bred by David Zlesak, a Minnesota-based plant breeder and University of Wisconsin-River Falls horticulture professor, Oso



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROVEN WINNERS

Oso Happy® Smoothie rose

Happy® Smoothie almost seems too good to be true. But it isn't. I tested this introduction in my gardens last summer and loved it. Hardy and resistant to black spot, this diminutive rose grows to 3 feet tall and offers up bright pink single blooms from June until frost. Mine still looked fantastic at Halloween, planted in a protected spot near the house. Full sun. Zone 4.

### **Coreopsis 'Mercury Rising' PPAF**

It had me at red blooms, but the bright orange centers of each flower pushed me over the edge on this new coreopsis created by hybridizer David Probst, even though it's only hardy to zone 5. Flowers last from early summer into fall and grow larger over the season, maturing to 1½ to 2 inches. Foliage can take a light frost and grows vigorously while retaining a well-branched form. Good powdery mildew resistance, too. Full sun. Zone 5.

### **Tulipa 'Cash'**

With their here-this-spring-but-never-again nature, tulips can be hard to love. But 'Cash', available from John Scheepers, is no ordinary tulip. It's a giant Darwin hybrid bred for repeat bloom-



*Coreopsis* 'Mercury Rising'

ing, season after season. Flowers are a deep orange-red and last from mid-April into May. Be sure to plant these in a spot with good drainage. Full sun. Zone 3.

#### ***Heuchera* Little Cutie™ Series**

Terra Nova Nurseries introduced its mini-coral bells series, Little Cutie™, last summer but I'm calling these plants new in 2013 because they will be more widely available this year. The series includes seven petite new *Heucheras*, all bred for their outstanding colors, including 'Blondie', 'Coco', 'Frost', 'Ginger Snap', 'Peppermint', 'Sugar Berry' and 'Sweet Tart'. Drought-tolerant and easygoing as long as they're planted in well-drained soil, these Little Cutie™ coral bells look best when grown in rock gardens or spots where they won't get lost among larger plants. They also make great container plants, providing you put them in the ground before winter. Full sun to part shade. Zone 4.

#### ***Brunnera macrophylla* 'Sea Heart' PPAF**


Plants Nouveau is behind this pretty new *Brunnera*, which is touted as "like 'Jack Frost', but on steroids." In a side-by-side



*Heuchera* 'Blondie'



*Heuchera* 'Sugar Berry'

test with 'Jack Frost', 'Sea Heart' flowered longer and better handled the heat and humidity, according to Plants Nouveau. Sounds good, and the pink-and-blue blooms look lovely, too. I'll always make room for brunneras. Full sun to full shade. Zone 4. 

*Meleah Maynard is a Minneapolis-based writer and Master Gardener. Follow her gardening blog at [www.everydaygardener.com](http://www.everydaygardener.com).*