

Perennials and the Weeds
that Resemble Them: *Our guide*
page 28



5 EASY-CARE
(and Colorful!) **COMBOS** page 30

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THE BEST New Plants

for **SUN** and **SHADE**
(Our 24 **MUST-HAVES** for 2011) page 18

Meet
Phantom petunia
on page 18

**READER
TIPS** IN
EVERY ISSUE

page 4

**The Truth About
Attracting
Nesting Birds**

BONUS: *Easy-to-Build Bird House* page 6

Plant Tag Savvy

— **READ OUR ADVICE** Before
You Hit the Garden Center page 42



Perennial impostor!
Which is the weed and which is the perennial? Find out on page 28!

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These six "first-place" plants will give you the earliest blooming garden in the neighborhood.

Mandevilla..... 16
Three ways to make this lush tropical vine look fabulous almost anywhere.

Make Every Square Foot Count! **Web26**
Love lots of home-grown produce, but don't want a huge vegetable patch? Learn how to raise the most edibles from a small space.

To Pull or Not to Pull? 28
In early spring it can be hard to tell emerging perennials from look-alike weeds. Check our guide before you pull!

5 Easy-Care Plant Combos 30
Nobody wants to do more garden maintenance than they have to. Not to worry — these five combos add color without all the work!

Spring Hospitality 34
Want lots of easy spring color? This garden has it, plus tips to help carry it into summer, too.

ON THE COVER Phantom petunia — one of our favorite new annuals this year.
Photo: Jack Coyler

ON THE BACK COVER Bring on spring with tulips, daffodils and pansies.
Photo: Doug Appleby



To find more tips, plans and step-by-step instructions, look for these online exclusives on our Web site.
www.GardenGateMagazine.com

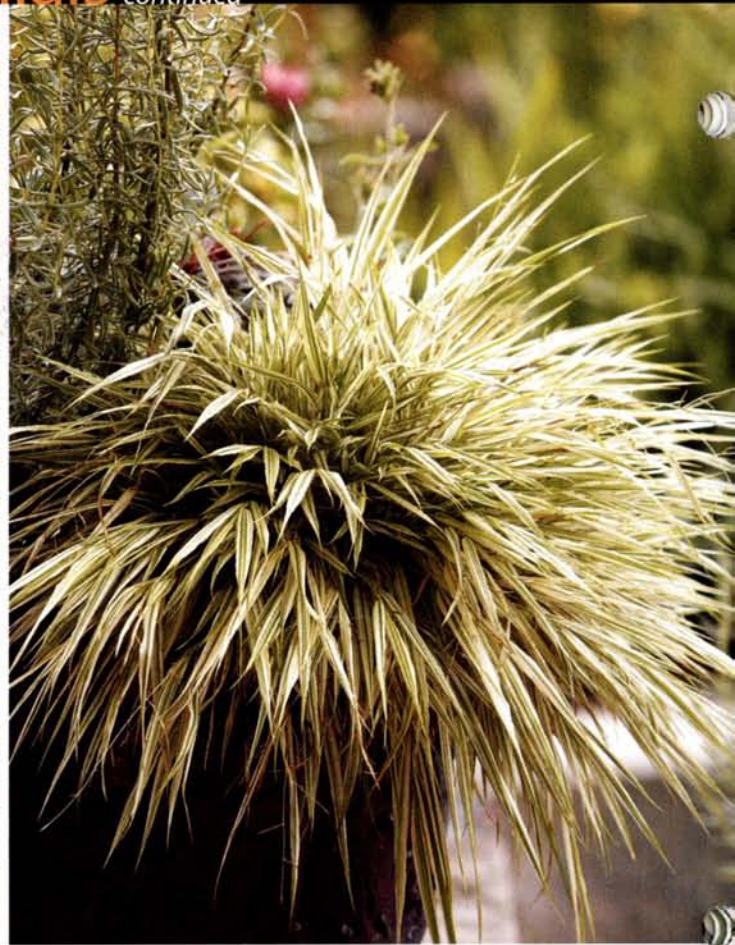
- **Slide show:** more of our favorite 2011 plant intros
- Find out which vegetables give you the most bang for your buck with our high-value produce **list**
- Shady front yard **planting plan**
- Tree bed **planting plan**



ULTIMATE FLOWERS for SUN and SHADE

This 100-page, softcover book is bursting with design secrets and fantastic tips from the editors of *Garden Gate* magazine!

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**'Whitewater'
bear's breeches**
Acanthus hybrid

You might say 'Whitewater' is the drama queen of the garden. Those big white and pink flowers stand a foot or two over the big bold foliage. And its variegation is so vibrant it doesn't just lighten up your shade garden — it illuminates it! Besides looking good, 'Whitewater' has more vigor than previous variegated cultivars and better tolerance for cold, heat and humidity.

The flowers that open on 4-foot-tall scapes last for months and make great cut flowers.



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** White and pink in summer
- Light** Full to part shade
- Soil** Moist, well-drained
- Size** 4 ft. tall (in flower), 3 ft. wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 7 to 10
Heat: AHS zones 10 to 1
- Introducer** Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc.
- Source** Forestfarm
www.forestfarm.com
541-846-7269
- What's new?** Vibrant white variegation on a vigorous plant

Fubuki hakonechloa
Hakonechloa macra
'Briform'

This new hakonechloa will knock your socks off. Graceful green and white striped Fubuki™ (which is Japanese for "snow-storm") looks good from spring to summer. When cooler fall temperatures arrive, the white areas of the leaves develop a slight pink tint.

Fubuki is more compact than other cultivars, but what we liked best about it is its vigor. The small plants we received last spring took right off and developed into beefy plants, like the one in the photo above. And you don't have to worry about it reverting, either. We didn't see a single unstriped blade all season.



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** NA
- Light** Part shade
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 10 in. tall, 16 in. wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 5 to 9
Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1
- Introducer** Briggs Plant Propagators, LLC
- Source** Great Garden Plants, Inc.
www.greatgardenplants.com
877-447-4769
- What's new?** Beautiful variegation

PHOTO: Courtesy of www.terranovanurseries.com (bear's breeches)