How do RETAILERS Influence PLANT BRANDS?

New Perennial Varieties digest

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New Varieties 2011

Perennials continue to gain popularity and market share. Check out these new plants from breeders worldwide.

SUPPLEMENT TO: Greenhouse Management
New Perennial Varieties

By David Kuack

Perennials continue to gain in popularity and market share. Check out these new plants from breeders from around the world.

AGASTACHE

Jelitto Perennial Seeds has two new agastaches. *Agastache cana ‘Bolero’* from Jelitto Perennial Seeds has a compact habit growing to a height and spread of 16 inches. Plants are covered with rose-purple tubular flowers with purple calyces from June through October. Ninety-nine percent of the slug-resistant plants have aromatic bronze colored leaves that are considerably darker than other strains. ‘Bolero’ is a reliable first year flowering plant, tolerant of dry conditions and hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 5-10. It is well-suited for container production or dry gardens.  

*Agastache aurantiaca ‘Tango’* produces funnel-shaped fiery orange flowers on dense 14-inch tall terminal spikes. It has attractive, aromatic-scented, grey-green foliage. This compact, first year flowering plant finishes in as little as 12 weeks. Hardy in Zones 5-10, ‘Tango’ is a magnet for honeybees, hummingbirds and butterflies from June through October in full sun and well-drained soils.

‘Blue Boa’ from Terra Nova Nurseries produces deep violet blue flower spikes that are long, wide and extremely showy. Foliage height to 24 inches tall and 16 inches wide. Flowering height to 32 inches. It’s drought tolerant once established and attracts hummingbirds as well as butterflies. Hardy in Zones 6-9.

AGAVE

Rancho Tissue Technologies is offering two new varieties. Each leaf of *Agave potatorum ‘Cameron Blue’* features amazing curving imprints on the back. The plant forms a lovely open rosette shape with rigid blue leaves graced with large burgundy-tipped fingers. It prefers full sun and can tolerate freezing temperatures. Produced from tissue culture for exceptional consistency, it’s perfect for landscapes.

*Agave impressa ‘Impressive’* is a medium-sized plant that takes A. *impressa’s* characteristic white markings up a notch with a striking stitching effect that seems painted on each leaf. Matte medium leaves form stately green rosettes that provide the perfect contrast for the delicate imprints. As
semi-double flowers with a gold edge on the ray florets. It grows to 22-24 inches tall and has 30-32 flower stems per plant with 16-18 flowers per stem. Pink Dawn has 4-inch light pink flowers with a light yellow ring of color in the ray florets beyond the disc. It grows to 22-24 inches tall and has 24-26 flowering stems per plant and 14-16 flowers per flower stem. Purple Mist produces 3½-inch single light purple flowers. Plants reach 22-24 inches tall producing 30-32 flowering stems per plant and 14-16 flowers per stem. Rustic Glow has 3½-inch single burnt-orange flowers. It is 18-20 inches tall.

**COLOCASIA**

*Bikini-tini* is part of Plants Nouveau *Tropi-cool* series, which is hardy in Zones 6-11. Plants reach 5-6 feet tall and 30-36 inches wide. The upward-facing bluish-gray leaves form cups that show off the dark purple petioles and veins. It’s a tetraploid, so it is also strong-stemmed and thick-leaved.

*Colocasia esculenta* Royal Hawaiian Black Coral from PlantHaven has elegant glossy dark black foliage with electric blue veins held on dark petioles. It has a tidy, clump forming habit with short runners developing close to the mother plant. Plants reach 48 inches tall by 36 inches wide at maturity. Hardy in Zones 7b-11. Use in large containers, garden borders and landscape plantings.

**COREOPSIS**

*Coreopsis verticillata* Tweety from Darwin Perennials has a compact, bushy habit that requires no growth regulators and no bulking up. It can be grown as a spring plant for reduced greenhouse or field time. It flowers from May to September and reaches 14-16 inches tall and wide. It is hardy in Zones 5-9.

The stunning flowers of *Sweet Marmalade* from Blooms of Bressingham open deep orange, mellowing to soft apricot-yellow through the season. It is a sport of the very popular ‘Creme Brulee’. No vernalization needed for flowering. Blooms summer into early autumn.

Bushy mounded plants with mid-green, narrow, linear foliage, grow 10 inches high and 20 inches wide the first year. Hardy in Zones 5-9.

**CROCOSMIA**

Terra Nova Nurseries has released two varieties in the *Twilight Fairy* series. Crimson and Gold both produce bronze foliage and short, multi-branched flower spikes. Ideal for the small garden, plants reach 14 inches tall and wide. Crimson produces bright red flowers. Gold produces flashy yellow-orange flowers in early summer. Both are hardy in Zones 7-9.

**DIANTHUS**

*Scent From Heaven* series from Pacific Plug & Liner has four varieties: ‘Angel of Charm’, ‘Angel of Peace’, ‘Angel of Desire’ and ‘Angel of Forgiveness’. Bred in New Zealand, plants produce striking multi-color blooms with a strong fragrance. They have attractive silver-blue foliage and bloom from early spring until summer. Most notable is the striking multi-color blooms.
Plants, which grow to 8 inches tall and 10 inches wide. They are hardy in Zones 5-9.

PlantHaven has released several Dianthus hybrida varieties.

The Devon Cottage series has two introductions. Bright Eyes produces large fragrant double flowers that are a crisp white with a bright burgundy eye. Plants grow 14-18 inches tall and 10-14 inches wide. Waterloo Sunset produces masses of fragrant uniquely colored double blooms. The plants have a compact mounding habit reaching 12 inches tall and wide. Both varieties have glaucous, blue-green foliage. Flower stems are sturdy and do not flop. Both rebloom and no vernalization is required for flowering. Hardy to Zone 5. Use plants in containers, borders, mass landscapes and as a fresh cut flower.

The Promotional Lines series has two introductions. Silver Star produces fragrant semi-double flowers. Starburst produces fragrant, double art deco patterned flowers. No vernalization is required. Both are repeat blooming and have glaucous, blue-green foliage with a unique dense mounding habit. Plants measure about 7 inches tall and wide. They are hardy to Zone 5. Dead heading and feeding regularly encourage fast repeat blooming. They attract bees and butterflies. Plants can be used in containers, borders, mass landscape plantings and as fresh cuts.

The Scent First series adds two varieties. Romance produces spicy fragrant salmon-pink double flowers with a carmine eye carried on sturdy stems. Plants have a compact mounding habit growing 9 inches tall and wide. Sugar Plum produces spicy fragrant double flowers that have wavy maroon petals edged in pink-white. Plants have a compact mounding habit with sturdy stems reaching 10 inches tall and wide.

Both reblooming varieties have glaucous, blue-green foliage with no vernalization required. Hardy to Zone 5. Good for containers, borders, mass landscape plantings and as a fresh cut flower.

Barbarini Pink from Syngenta Flowers, Goldsmith Seeds can be programmed to bloom from April through September. It has a uniform habit and blooms the first year planted. Recommended for fall sales, this variety has great overwintering ability. Hardy to Zone 5.

ECHINACEA

Darwin Perennials has introduced two new series. The Sombrero series consists of Hot Coral, Salsa Red and Sandy Yellow. This very well-branched series is well matched for habit and timing, and perfect for use in first year flowering programs. Sombrero features sturdy, compact plants with proven hardiness. Plants are very floriferous in bright, rich colors. They reach a height of 22-24 inches and spread of 24-26 inches. Plants, which flower from June to August, are hardy in Zones 5-9.

The Double Scoop series contains Bubble Gum, Orangeberry and Raspberry. The double flower form of the brilliantly colored flowers is very eye-catching from June through August. The very hardy, well-branched plants have clean foliage and reliable finishing. Plants, which grow to a height of 28-30 inches and spread of 24-28 inches, are hardy in Zones 5-9.

E. purpurea ‘Happy Star’ is a lovely white flowering selection, bred out of Jelitto’s ‘Rubinstern’. Beautiful white petals, horizontally arranged around a large cone, distinguish this consistent, new affordable seed strain.

Plants Nouveau has released three new varieties. ‘Marmalade’ is a strong plant that supports truly double two-toned marmalade-orange flowers. It flowers from early to mid June for eight to 12 weeks. Plants measure 26-30 inches tall by 24-30 inches wide. Hardy in Zones 5(4)-9.

‘Raspberry Truffle’ is a short, sturdy
New varieties

Gaillardia Commotion 'Movie'

selection with salmon-pink flowers on chocolate stems. Plants have thick purpurea-like foliage and strong, upright stems. Plants reach 18-22 inches tall and 24-30 inches wide. It blooms early to mid June for eight to 12 weeks. Hardy in Zones 5(4)-9.

‘White Double Delight’ is a compact re-blooming crisp white sport of ‘Pink Double Delight’. It produces multiple double blooms per stem and grows to 18-24 inches tall and wide. It flowers from early July for 12 weeks. It is hardy in Zones 5(4)-9.

‘Leilani’ from Terra Nova Nurseries has large, clear, non-fading yellow flowers that bloom late into the fall. Its strong upright habit doesn’t require staking. Plants reach 36 inches tall and 30 inches wide. Hardy in Zones 4-9.

ERITRICHIUM
Eritrichium anum ‘Baby Blues’ from Jelitto flowers more abundantly than the wild species producing dozens of intense blue corollas with throats of soft heavenly blue on evenly compact 10-inch tall stems. It can be easily grown, even as an annual, in full sun in climates with cooler summers and in soils that are gritty and well-drained. ‘Baby Blues’ is a fast germinator and can be brought to flower in three to four months. The leaves on many Eritrichium are soft and fuzzy.

ERYSIMUM
Fragrant Star (‘Walfrastar’) from PlantHaven produces bright sunshine yellow sweetly scented sterile flowers. A stable sport from the variety Fragrant Sunshine (‘Walfrasun’). Fragrant Star has a compact mounding habit growing 18 inches tall and 24 inches wide. It has cream and silver-green variegated foliage. It flowers from early spring through summer. Plants are drought tolerant once established. Trim hard back in spring to encourage strong basal branching. Hardy to Zone 7.

GAILLARDIA
G. x grandiflora ‘Arizona Apricot’ from Benary is a 2011 All-America Selections winner. It’s easy to grow, fills in the pot fast and flowers the first year without vernalization. It thrives under a wide variety of climatic conditions. It blankets the garden with color even under hot and dry conditions. ‘Arizona Apricot’ flowers as early and uniformly as ‘Arizona Sun’ and ‘Arizona Red Shades’ and continues blooming well into the autumn with a mass of apricot flowers. With a well-branched, compact habit, it is easy to produce and display controlled uniform, plants.

G. x grandiflora Mesa Bright Bicolor from Kieft Pro-Seeds is a first year-flowering perennial suitable for both annual and traditional perennial production. The strong, upright, early-flowering and well-branched plants fill gallon containers quickly while maintaining a controlled height without flopping over. The uniform habit and flowering time make it easy to schedule and ship. It is very drought tolerant once established. Mesa shows intense, non-fading color all season. Plants reach 16-18 inches tall and 20-22 inches wide. Hardy in Zones 5a-10b.

The Galya series from Danziger has several new varieties. G. x grandiflora additions include: Wild Fire has large-sized red with yellow rim flowers and a compact mounded habit. It flowers continuously and is hardy to Zone 5. Continuously flowering Blazing Sun has large deep red and intense yellow flowers and a mounded compact habit. It’s hardy to Zone 5. Red Head flowers continuously with unique glaring orange-yellow flowers with dark red centers. Hardy to Zone 5. Corneto

Developed by Brent Horvath of Intrinsic Perennial Gardens, Echinacea x ‘Snow Cone’ is a dwarf white coneflower. This hybrid has E. tennesseensis in the breeding giving it better longevity in the garden.
**New varieties**

Yellow produces unique trumpet-like yellow flowers on compact, mounded plants. It flowers continuously lasting a long time in the landscape. Compact, mounding Corneto Flame continuously produces trumpet-like red and yellow flowers.

G. x grandiflora 'Fanfare Blaze' from PlantHaven produces unique pinwheel-shaped, warm-orange tubular flowers. Plants flower early spring through fall. Plants, with fresh gray-green hairy foliage, have a compact mounding habit, reaching 12 inches tall by 18 inches wide. It is drought tolerant once it is established. Hardy in Zones 5-9.

G. x grandiflora 'Moxie' is the new member of the Commotion series. Hybridized by Pandemonium Plants and available from Skagit Gardens, 'Moxie' sports golden yellow, fluted petals with a vivid orange center. Like 'Frenzy' and 'Tizzy,' 'Moxie' has a high petal count with a semi-double appearance. Dark green, mounding foliage accents the bright flower color. Plants reach 18-24 inches tall and 24 inches wide. It flowers from June through October. It is hardy to Zone 5.

**GAURA**

G. lindheimeri 'Passionate Rainbow Petite' from PlantHaven has dark pink buds that open to medium pink flowers. It has a tight compact mounding habit reaching 18 inches tall by 20 inches wide. It flowers from early summer through fall. It has mid-green foliage with a fine cream margin blush pink-red early in the season, held on hot red stems. It is drought tolerant once it is established and is great for the commercial landscapes. Hardy to Zone 7.

**GERANIUM**

G. sanguineum 'St. Therese' from Intrinsic Perennial Gardens produces deep pink almost magenta flowers in May with some rebloom in June. Dark green 1-inch dissected leaves turn red in the fall. Plants measure 15 inches tall and 15-18 inches wide.

**GEUM**

'Alabama Slammer' from Intrinsic Perennial Gardens produces single to semi-double yellow flowers with rose colored tips on 18-24 inch stems. The sterile plants produce hairy green leaves and reach 8-10 inches tall and 10-12 inches wide. Bloom time is May and June. Hardy in Zones 5-10.

**GYPSOPHILA**

Gypsophila cerastioides 'Pixie Splash' from Kieft Pro-Seeds is a showy, early spring perennial that has a uniform, compact mounded habit and short harvest window. The flowers are a unique and attractive white with pink splash. It is long-lasting on the retail shelf for minimum waste. It can be used as a border edging, in hanging baskets and containers. Plants grow 3-5 inches tall and 4-7 inches wide. It is hardy in Zones 4a-7b.

**HELLEBORUS**

Winter Jewels Rose Quartz from Terra Nova Nurseries is double flowering strain that has every white petal edged in rose. This picotee-edged hellebore has a clumping habit growing to 12 inches tall and 24 inches wide. Plants flower March through May. Hardy in Zones 5-8.

**HEUCHERA**

'Primal Scream' from Proven Winners produces 7½- to 8½-inch, glimmering tangerine-orange, gold-dusted flowers with a green throat. Officially classified as "unusual form," the flower tepals are narrow, twisted, and recurved with loosely ruffled edges. It flowers in late midsummer on tall, graceful, willowy scapes above the attractive arching foliage. Hardy in Zones 3-9, plants reach 34 inches tall.

'Dustin Domansky' from Intrinsic Perennial Gardens has yellow flowers with a pink midrib and green strappy leaves. Plants flower in June and grow 24 inches tall and 15 inches wide. Hardy in Zones 4-10.

**HEUCHERA**

Danziger has added several new varieties to its Kira series, which features plants that have a compact mounded habit. Plants are hardy to Zone 4. Green Forest has leaves with dark deep green veins that really stand out through the silvery-gray overlay. The underside of the leaves exhibit intense and inviting tones of green, silver and wine-red. It is drought and high temperature tolerant. Autumn Leaves offers foliage of warm and inviting tones of peach and apricot with a coppery-red underside. It tolerates drought and high temperatures. Jungle Green's leaves have lively green veins that stand out through the silvery-gray overlay. The underside of the leaves show intense tones of green, silver and burgundy-red. Temperate Green has ever-fresh green veins that really stand out through the silvery-gray overlay on the leaves. Tiaga Green features...
Terra Nova Nurseries has released several varieties. ‘Cajun Fire’ produces foliage that changes color with the season—red in spring, black in summer and maroon in fall. It has white flowers on dark stems. Its H. villosa blood provides it with superior heat and humidity tolerance. Plants grow 9 inches tall and 14 inches wide. It is hardy in Zones 4-9.

‘Cajun Nights’ is a great landscape plant with large, glossy almost black leaves. It also has short stems of white flowers. It also can take the heat and humidity. It grows to 9 inches tall and 14 inches wide. Hardy in Zones 4-9.

‘Delta Dawn’ has brilliant red-centered chartreuse leaves in spring and fall and prominent lime green leaves veined in red during the summer. It has a strong vigorous habit growing to 8 inches tall and 12 inches wide. Hardy in Zones 4-9.

‘Spellbound’ makes a large plant with a full multi-crown habit. Leaves are painted with silver and violet. Grows to 8 inches tall and 16 inches wide. Great in containers and landscapes. Hardy in Zones 4-9.

HEucherella
Terra Nova Nurseries has introduced two varieties. ‘Solar Eclipse’ has red-brown leaves bordered in lime green. Color lasts year-round on this vigorous, evergreen mound planting plant. Grows to 10 inches tall and 16 inches wide. Hardy in Zones 4-9.

‘Sunrise Fall’ is a vigorous yellow-leaved trailing heucherella with large cut leaves and red veins. Leaves have red tint in the fall. Stems trail to 3 feet. Heat and humidity tolerant, plants reach 7 inches tall and over 30 inches long. Hardy in Zones 4-9.

**HIBISCUS**
Proven Winners has released two varieties. *Summerific* 'Berrylicious' was developed by Walters Gardens hybridizer Clarence Falstad. This hybrid is an improvement over ‘Fantasia’ in flower and habit. Huge 8-9 inch, mauve-lavender flowers with a deep strawberry red eye have ruffled, overlapping petals. They are produced on all sides of the dense, bushy, rounded clump of thick, bright green, maple-like leaves. It is a very floriferous indeterminate bloomer, so there are buds at many nodes up the stems rather than just at the tips. The result is a much longer season of bloom and flowers that cover all sides of the plant rather than just the top. Plants reach 4½-5 feet tall and wide. It is hardy in Zones 4-9.

‘Tie Dye’ produces huge 8-10 inch, bright pink and white bicolour petals and cherry red eye. It has an improved habit over ‘Turn of the Century.’ From midsummer into early fall, showy ruffled flowers of thick substance are produced at several nodes up the stems with flowers appearing on all sides of the clump. Healthy green, maple-like leaves on branched stems form a sizable clump in the landscape. ‘Tie Dye’ is suitable for planting en masse in the back of the border or planted singly as a late summer focal point. It grows to 4 feet tall and 5 feet wide. It is hardy in Zones 4-9.

**HOSTA**
‘Hudson Bay’ from Walters Gardens is an improvement over its parent, ‘Eskimo Pie.’ This new sport is a much showier, larger specimen and a stronger grower overall. The leaves have a wider, brighter blue margin and apple green jetting that contrast nicely with the creamy white center all season long. The leaves are of heavy substance, exhibiting good slug resistance in the landscape. It forms a large mound of attractive foliage topped with near-white flowers on white scapes in early summer. Plants reach 24 inches tall and wide. It is hardy in Zones 3-9.

‘Wheeel!’ from Proven Winners has extremely ruffled, cream colored margins which extend from the tip of each green leaf all the way down the petiole to the crown. This ruffled margin is evident even in the juvenile stage of the plant before vernalization. The leaves of this medium-sized hosta are of excellent substance, making them slug resistant in the landscape. Light lavender flowers appear atop 24-inch tall purple scapes in midsummer. Plants have a foliage height of 11-18 inches and spread of 28-30 inches. Hardy in Zones 3-9.

**IBERIS**
Bred in the United Kingdom, *Masterpiece* from Pacific Plug & Liner produces striking large flowers that measure 2-3 inches in diameter. This
New varieties

Kniphofia 'Elvira'

narrow strap-shaped leaves. Plants bloom summer into early autumn and attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Hardy in Zones 5-9.

'Red Hot Popsicle' from Terra Nova Nurseries has red flowers and narrow grassy leaves on short compact plants. It has an upright habit reaching 16 inches tall and 14 inches wide. It is free blooming and reblooms. Hardy in Zones 6-9.

LEUCANTHEMUM

White Mountain from GreenFuse Botanicals has large 4- to 5-inch diameter classic daisy flowers. Plants, which reach 24-30 inches tall, flower the first year without vernalization. It flowers continuously all spring and summer in containers and landscape. Hardy to Zone 4.

LIGULARIA

'Bottle Rocket' from Walters Gardens is a sport of 'Little Rocket.' Unlike older ligularias, this one is a perfectly proportioned plant with its mustard yellow flowers held on chocolate stems just at the top of the dense clump of foliage. No naked stems show on the plant. The flowers are held like a bouquet in the center of the clump, and there are more flowering stems per plant than its parent. Comparing mature specimens, 'Bottle Rocket' is about 6 inches shorter than its parent 'Little Rocket' in full bloom. 'Bottle Rocket' is also a more robust plant with thicker, very large, serrated leaves and a denser habit. In our trials, when 'Little Rocket' tended to open up and wilt in the heat, 'Bottle Rocket' has been shown to keep its tight habit and doesn't wilt in the heat. Plants reach 28-34 inches tall and 24-28 inches wide. Hardy in Zones 4-9.

PANICUM

Panicum virgatum 'Emerald Chief' from Jelitto has foliage that consistently turns a lovely golden color in fall and remains attractive deep into winter. Unlike other selections that are floppy and fall over before winter, 'Emerald Chief' remains upright. It can be used as a stand-alone specimen, but looks best in small sweeps in a sunny garden.

PHLOX

Mildew-resistant P. paniculata 'Ditomsur' Grape Lollipop from Plants Nouveau produces clusters of deliciously scented grape jelly colored flowers. Plants reach 18-24 inches tall and wide. It flowers from July through September. Hardy in Zones 3-9.

The Paparazzi series from Pacific Plug & Liner produces huge flowers on strong stems. Bred in Japan, colors include Amethyst, Bright Pink, Lavender, Rose, Soft Lavender and Sparkling Blue. Flowers hover 6-8 inches above the foliage and last until late spring.

POLYGONATUM

'Prince Charming' from Intrinsic Perennial Gardens produces creamy white pairs of uniquely scented 1-inch long tubular flowers during May and June. Plants have thick pinnately compound foliage. It grows 12 inches tall by 15 inches wide. Hardy to Zone 4.

'Double Stuff' from Terra Nova Nurseries has double the white margin of P. variegatum. It produces contrasting arching 2-foot dark red stems in the spring. Fragrant white flowers with green tips dangle below the leaves. Plants grow to 26 inches tall and 16 inches wide. Hardy in Zones 3-8.

RUDBECKIA

'Little Henry' from Terra Nova Nurseries produces the same yellow flowers as 'Henry Eilers,' but is one-third shorter. It is an upright plant, growing 36 inches tall and 24 inches wide. Makes a great specimen in the border and is excellent as a cut flower. Hardy in Zones 4-8.

SALVIA

'Sweet 16' from Walters Gardens is a notable improvement over 'Eveline' due to its larger flowers, brighter color and branched flower stems. From late spring through early summer, 'Sweet 16' produces long stems of vibrant rose-purple buds which open to larger, brighter lavender-pink flowers with a purple lip. Secondary branching on the flower stems extends the bloom time.
NEW PERENNIALS CONTACT LIST


Danziger "Dan" Flower Farm, 011 (972) 3-960-2525; www.danziger.co.il.

Ernst Benary of America, (815) 756-4546; www.benary.com


Kieft-Pro-Seed, (630) 231-1400; www.kieft-pro-seeds.com.


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