IN EVERY ISSUE: SMART TIPS FOR STUNNING GARDENS

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A GARDEN FOR EVERY SEASON 132

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BEST NEW PLANTS

t's time to start dreaming about what to plant this year, and there's no better way to kick start plans than with this year's roster of new plants.

WHAT'S NEW? There's lots of drama this year, from head-turning flowers to foliage with "wow!" power. Don't 'Bloody Mary' nasturtium and 'Safari Adventure' pineapple lily sound like they could really spice up your borders? They won't disappoint. Give Nautilus[™] Lilac begonia a try in pots for some moody color or grab attention with variegated Dream Dazzler sedum.

We were really happy with the container from the test garden at right—it looked spectacular all season. Tattoo Black Cherry annual vinca and Whirlwind Pink fanflower were a couple of staff favorites. It grew in full sun for most of the day but had some shelter from late afternoon heat. With regular watering and some liquid fertilizer every month or so the flowers were in steady supply.

Keep in mind that new plants can sometimes be hard to find the first year. It takes time for growers to build up large numbers. So if you find one that interests you at the garden center or online, snap it up. Let's get started and find out which new plants will end up on your shopping list.

- Sherri Ribbey



1 Tattoo[™] Black Cherry vinca

Catharanthus rosea

These vinca flowers will make you look twice — its cherry pink petals have a black center instead of the usual white and are brushed with black when temperatures are cool. We got the best look by growing plants in afternoon shade. This new series also has three other colors: Papaya, Raspberry and Tangerine.

Tender perennial Blooms: Cherry pink with a black center and swatches of black from late spring to frost Light: Full sun Size: 10 to 14 in. tall, 6 to 8 in. wide Cold-hardy: USDA zones 9 to 11 Heat-tolerant: AHS zones 12 to 1 Introducer: Pan American Seed[®] Source: Local garden centers



2 Whirlwind[®] Pink fanflower Scaevola aemula

When you want loads of blooms on a trailing plant, this fanflower is perfect. We found it to be heat- and drought-tolerant and it kept on flowering even through the hottest part of summer last year. Better yet, there's no need to break a sweat deadheading — it's a selfcleaning variety that grows over the spent blooms.

Tender perennial Blooms: Pink fans from late spring to frost Light: Full sun Size: 8 to 14 in. tall, 18 to 24 in. wide Coldhardy: USDA zones 10 to 11 Heat-tolerant: AHS zones 12 to 1 Introducer: Proven Winners[®] Source: Garden Crossings, www.gardencrossings.com, 616-875-6355



WIN A BOX OF NEW PLANTS!

This spring we'll choose 6 lucky readers to receive a box of new plants from Proven Winners. Enter your name here! **www.gardengatemagazine.com/newplants**



Like this container? Get the recipe!

GGMagExtra.com

GARDEN GATE'S TOP PICKS

1 'Double Click Bicolor Pink' cosmos

Cosmos hybrid

Now there's a bicolor bloom available in this great line of double flowering cosmos. Sturdy stems keep flowers upright where you can enjoy them.

Annual Blooms: Pink and white double flowers from spring to fall Light: Full sun Size: 24 to 36 in. tall, 18 to 24 in. wide Heat-tolerant: AHS zones 12 to 1 Introducer and source: Select Seeds, www.selectseeds.com, 800-684-0395

2 'Maui Sunrise' elephant ear

Colocasia hybrid

Variable cream variegation gives this elephant ear some serious mojo in your tropical oasis. Its compact size makes it easy to grow in containers, small gardens or even a small balcony.

Bulb Blooms: Glossy green leaves with a creamy white center Light: Full sun Size: 2 to 3 ft. tall and wide Cold-hardy: USDA zones 7 to 11 Heat-tolerant: AHS zones 12 to 1 Introducer: PlantHaven® Source: Local garden centers

3 'Bloody Mary' nasturtium

Tropaeolum majus

This is one gorgeous flower in an unusual pattern for a nasturtium. Be sure not to fertilize or you'll get all foliage and none of those amazing blooms.

Annual Blooms: Cream flowers with deep red irregular streaks and blotches in summer to fall Light: Full sun to part shade Size: 10 to 12 in. tall, 12 to 14 in. wide Heat-tolerant: AHS zones 12 to 1 Introducer and Source: John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds[™] www.kitchengardenseeds.com, 860-567-6086

4 Minifamous[™] Uno Double PinkTastic

calibrachoa Calibrachoa hybrid Yes, those are double flowers on a calibrachoa and this one is a bicolor, too! Grow it in a hang-

ing basket to get those pretty flowers at eye level so you can really appreciate them.

Tender perennial Blooms: Double pink and white flowers from spring to fall Light: Full sun to part shade Size: 8 to 10 in. tall, 10 to 12 in. wide Cold-hardy: USDA zones 9 to 11 Heat-tolerant: AHS zones 12 to 1 Introducer: Selecta Source: Local garden centers

5 Nautilus[™] Lilac begonia Begonia hybrid An extra big swirl in the center of each leaf gives Nautilus Lilac begonia real style. For the best color grow it in cool temperatures and keep plants healthy by letting the potting mix dry out between waterings to avoid rot.



Tender perennial Blooms: Violet, rose and purple foliage with black edge Light: Full to part shade Size: 12 to 14 in. tall, 18 to 24 in. wide Cold-hardy: USDA zones 9 to 11 Heat-tolerant: AHS zones 12 to 1 Introducer: Terra Nova® Nursery Source: Local garden centers

New **Plants**





PHOTOS: Courtesy of Select Seeds, Union, CT (1); courtesy of Plant Haven (2); courtesy of John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds (3); courtesy of TERRA NOVA* Nurseries, Inc., www.terranovanurseries.com (5)







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'GOLD HEART' BLEEDING HEART Lamprocapnos spectabilis

Perennial

Blooms Heart-shaped rose-pink flowers with protruding white inner petals bloom in late spring
Light Part to full shade
Soil Moist, well-drained
Pests None serious
Size 18 to 24 in. tall, 24 to 36 in. wide
Cold-hardy USDA zones 3 to 8
Heat-tolerant AHS zones 8 to 1

Botanical Names

Hakonechloa Hakonechloa macra Hosta Hosta spp.

A bright twist on a classic perennial

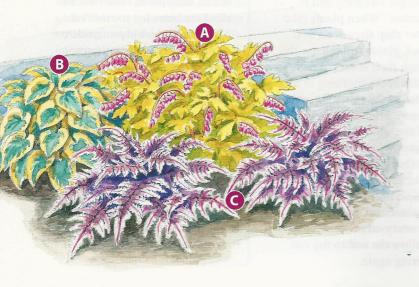
ho wouldn't want a plant that glows in the dark? Well, it doesn't actually emit bioluminescent light, but 'Gold Heart' bleeding heart does illuminate the shadiest of woodlands with its shockingly radiant foliage. Ever since it was first made available in 1997, this bleeding heart with brilliant gold foliage has been popping up in the less-than-light landscapes of gardeners in the know. If you thought chartreuse hostas and hakonechloa were the only bright choices for your shady areas, perhaps you should consider this unusual twist on a beloved perennial.

OLD-FASHIONED FAVORITE The common bleeding heart (formerly *Dicentra spectabilis*) has long been a favorite of cottage and shade gardens with its long arching stems of dangling heart-shaped rose-pink blossoms that appear in late spring before the leaves emerge. Although it thrives in light shade, it can take a sunny border, provided the soil stays sufficiently moist. This is especially true for Southern

gardens, where slightly moist soil is essential for good performance.

ALL ABOUT THE FOLIAGE 'Gold Heart', at right, is special because its leaves emerge buttery yellow in spring and turn chartreuse-green as they age. The bright foliage contrasts beautifully with its rich pink flowers and mahogany stems. This is truly an eye-catching plant that infuses the shade garden with sunlight and warmth, each delicate, puffy blossom dripping a perfect white pendulum.

A TRUE EPHEMERAL Bleeding heart is considered an ephemeral plant, which means that once summer's heat kicks in, it will go dormant (when the stems die back to the ground, discard them) until the following spring. Combine them with late-season perennials like hostas and ferns to hide the passing foliage. Green may not be a primary color, but it is the color that unifies the garden. Take advantage of this vibrant hue and add a splash of chartreuse to one of your shadier spots.



Brighten shady places

This delightful trio of shade-loving perennials will pump plenty of color and texture into any less-than-bright corner of the garden.

- A Bleeding heart Lamprocapnos spectabilis 'Gold Heart' See information above left
- B Hosta Hosta 'Autumn Frost' Perennial; pale lavender flowers in summer; part to full shade; 12 to 16 in. tall, 20 to 24 in. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 3 to 8, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 8 to 1
- C Japanese painted fern Athyrium niponicum pictum
 Perennial; gray-green fronds with silver and maroon accents; part to full shade; 12 to 18 in. tall, 18 to 24 in. wide; cold-hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9, heat-tolerant in AHS zones 9 to 3

Source

White Flower Farm www.whiteflowerfarm.com 800-503-9624