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AUGUST 2012

Necessary Natives

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Basic Botany Light Construction Equipment "Deer-Resistant" Plants

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### On the cover:

Colorful Asclepias tuberosa is native throughout nearly all the lower 48 states and is at home in a wide range of landscape designs.

Cover photo courtesy of American Beauties



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# Six Essential Natives

Supporting local wildlife and providing architectural interest and beauty as well, native perennials are a must for the well-designed garden. By Peggy Anne Montgomery

# **Basic Botany for Horticulturists**

What's more important than the fundamentals? If you've got a sound foundation in botany, the world of ornamental horticulture is your oyster plant. *By Erik Draper, Jim Chatfield and Gary Gao* 

# **Light Construction Equipment**

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From compacting to drilling to trenching, these versatile, labor-saving tools can conquer the task at hand.

# An Unpalatable Palette

Stressed, hungry deer will eat almost anything, but your installations may stand up to browsing if you specify plants reputed to be deer-resistant. *By Sally Benson* 



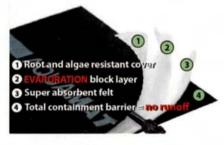
# **HotProducts**

#### **Paver brush**

The V-angle wire brush from Bon Tool Co. cleans mud and dirt from tight paver joints. Equipped with a 4-foot handle, the easy-to-use tool sports bristles that measure 1¼ inches for good reach into the joint.

For more information: www.bontool. com/product1.asp?P=21-159

# Sub-irrigation system



The Aquamat<sup>®</sup> patented system provides a sensible approach to the serious issue of decreasing water supply that affects numerous producers worldwide. This capillary irrigation mat has been specially designed for the cultivation of plants in containers. In comparison to conventional irrigation systems where 80 percent of the water is quickly drained (or falls between the pots), Aquamat<sup>®</sup> captures the water and stores it inside the mat. It pro-

duces beneficial impacts on the natural environment as well as optimizes your overall operational performance.

For more information: www.aquamatsystem.com/en/ products/aquamat/

## Sedum color mix

Emerald Coast Growers takes the guesswork out of buying with its Color Mix, offering 10 starters each of five varieties of succulents in each tray. Color Mix joins the company's Chicks Mix; plants are suitable for groundcovers, in containers and rock gardens.

For more information: www.ecgrowers.com/ Sedum-Color-Mix-50-p/153.htm



#### 'Dark Star' eucomis

Terra Nova Nurseries introduces *Eucomis* 'Dark Star', featuring dark, redblack foliage and pink flowers in late summer. The clumping plant grows about 14 inches wide and 9 inches high (flowers reach about 10 inches); it's drought tolerant and hardy in zones 7 to 10.

For more information: www.terra novanurseries.com/growers/eucomis darkstar-p-591.html



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