january/february 2014

new year, new ye

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HOW-TO

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22 New Varieties 2014

From baptisia to verbena, we're completely smitten with a host of fantastic new plants coming out this spring. BY MELEAH MAYNARD

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RACY ANN WALSH

Babybeat beets by Johnny's Selected Seeds



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Sea Heart' brunnera light: Part sun to full shade + height: 6 to 12 inches width: 12 to 24 inches + zones: 4 to 8

> **'Rain Dance' big bluestem** light: Full sun • height: 6 feet width: 3 to 4 feet • zones: 3 to 9

'Supreme Cantaloupe' coneflower

If you love echinacea and want to add a head-turner to your gardens, you can't beat 'Supreme Cantaloupe' from **Terra Nova Nurseries** and **Blooms of Bressingham**. One of three varieties in the Supreme echinacea series, this new introduction boasts anemone-type blooms the color of ripe cantaloupe. Compact, drought-resistant and attractive to butterflies, this variety is sure to please.

Blooms of Bressingham, bloomsofbressinghamplants.com

Terra Nova Nurseries, terranovanurseries.com

'Sea Heart' brunnera

Brunnera typically turns heads in shade gardens until hot weather causes it to fade. Not so with 'Sea Heart' (*Brunnera macrophylla*), a new introduction from **Plants Nouveau** and **Skagit Gardens**. 'Sea Heart', widely available for the first time in 2014, keeps its shape and color in summer heat. Heart-shaped green leaves are accented with bright silver veins. Delicate blue blooms appear in spring.

Plants Nouveau, plantsnouveau.com Skagit Gardens, www.skagitgardens.com

'Rain Dance' big bluestem

This new big bluestem (Andropogon gerardii) from **Santa Rosa Gardens** gives ornamental grass-lovers, even in cold climates, a spectacular new option that packs a pretty punch. Dark green, red-tipped foliage turns purple in late summer and bright red in fall for an outstanding end-of-season show. Small red flowers that form on the red stems make this cultivar even more interesting. Plant it near gold foliage plants for added drama!

Santa Rosa Gardens, santarosagardens.com