

PENNSYLVANIA GARDENER

PENNSYLVANIA'S OWN GUIDE TO GREAT GARDENING & LANDSCAPING STATE-BY-STATE
GARDENING

Keys to A Beautiful

Cottage Garden

**10 Easy
Veggies**

**The POWER
of PEONIES**

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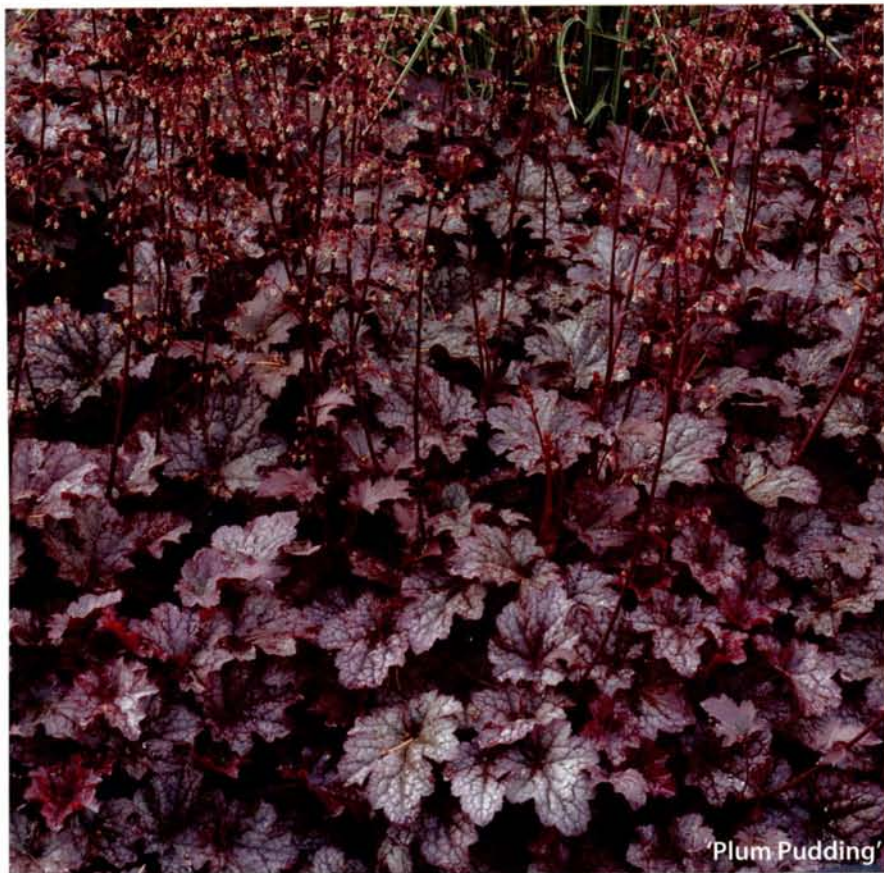


On The Cover
Clematis is a cottage garden classic.

PHOTO: ROBIN CARLSON; CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

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'Plum Pudding'



'Ginger Ale'

Coral Bells

We veteran gardeners know coral bells (*Heuchera* species) as a shade garden's tried-and-true, spring-blooming, semi-evergreen perennial that is also a graceful ground cover. Foliage of the native *Heuchera americana* ('Dale's Strain', 'Green Spice') ranges from shades of green to bronze to silver to purple. Spring bells of pink, red, white or cream are among the first to unfurl and pop as weather warms.

Today's coral bells cultivars are a kaleidoscope with names to make the mouth water: 'Plum Pudding', 'Ginger Ale', 'Caramel', 'Brownies', 'Frosted Violet', 'Tiramisu' and more. Their parents are *Heuchera villosa*, *Heuchera micrantha* and *Heuchera americana*. Their foliage brings a rainbow of season-long color to the shade garden. *H.* 'Autumn Bride' flowers are airy white in September.

Coral bells thrive in light sun to part shade. All prefer moist soil; *H. villosa* cultivars tolerate dry soil. Hardiness is cultivar-specific, from Zones 3 to 9. Check label for specifics.

Quick Facts & Keys to Success

Common Name: Coral Bells, Alum Root

Botanical Name: *Heuchera americana*, *Heuchera villosa*, *Heuchera micrantha*

Color: Coral, pink, cream or red bells dangling from stems in spring (*H. americana*). White to light green flowers in late

summer, fall (*H. villosa*). Mounded, semi-evergreen green to bronze to burgundy to silver to peach to multi-colored foliage.

Blooming Period: Spring or fall

Type: Herbaceous perennial

Size: 8 to 28 inches tall and wide, depending on cultivar

Exposure: Part sun to shade

When to Plant: Spring and fall for transplants

How to Plant: Plant 1 to 2 feet apart, depending on size at maturity. Water generously to settle soil around roots and remove air pockets.

Soil: Well-drained

Watering: Moist

When to Prune: Remove dead foliage in spring

When to Fertilize: Apply organic fertilizer in spring and fall

In Your Landscape: Plant in clusters of three, five or seven in woodlands, shady perennial beds and mixed borders. 🌿

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