



ADVERTISING



NO FORBIDDEN FOODS.  
NO REQUIRED FOODS.


Eat your own food.

GO!



WESTERN WASHINGTON  
TOYOTA DEALERS

The Seattle Times Company NWjobs | NWautos | NWhomes | NWapartments | NWsource | Classifieds | seattletimes.com



# Pacific Northwest

48°F  
Weather | Traffic

Today's news index  
Low-graphic version  
RSS feeds

Home Local Nation/World Business/Tech Sports Entertainment Living Travel/Outdoors Opinion Buy ads Jobs Autos Rentals Real Estate NWsource

Search
Movies | Restaurants | Today's events
Your account | Log in | Contact us

Our network sites
seattletimes.com
Advanced


Tell us what you think about seattletimes.com! Take our survey and enter to win a \$100 gift card.
start

## How does a \$100 gift card sound?

Sunday, April 20, 2008 - Page updated at 12:00 AM

[E-mail article](#)
[Print view](#)
Share: [Digg](#) [Newsvine](#)

### Plant Life

## A chosen few may become your new perennial favorites

By Valerie Easton

Expect confusion over what "new" means when it comes to perennials and annuals that are relatively quick to breed. Some "fresh on the market" plants may have been around awhile, but available only in England or from an obscure mail-order firm that stocked only a dozen at some absurdly high price. Maybe they've just been renamed or newly marketed. Whatever. This is the first spring most of us have been able to get our hands on these tempting selections. Powerhouse Oregon wholesalers Log House Plants and Terra Nova are supplying local nurseries. But I've also noted plants you may need to get mail-order, for this first year anyway.

#### Foliage

- *Begonia* 'Metallic Mist' from Terra Nova Nurseries, is not only hardy — which is rare for a begonia — but its large, maple-like leaves are a luminous silver. Perfect for the shade garden or a container, it has pink flowers in late summer.
- *Acanthus mollis* 'Tasmanian Angel' is the first-ever variegated bear's breeches. Its hefty green leaves are a perfect canvas for the white speckling and margins that make this bold plant even more striking.
- You knew there'd be at least one new heuchera on the list, and this spring's introduction has neon-bright foliage. *Heuchera villosa* 'Tiramisu' starts out with yellow leaves centered with a spot of red. As the leaves mature, the yellow morphs to lime and the red spreads, yet the Christmas color scheme is mellowed by a shimmery overlay of silver. (Wayside, [www.waysidegardens.com](http://www.waysidegardens.com), and others)
- Even if you don't love variegation, you'll fall for *Bergenia* 'Solar Flare,' a twist on this dependable clumper for pots and rockeries. This version has the familiar rounded, paddle-shaped leaves, but they're warm cream and green, shading to pink and green in autumn. The cooler the weather, the more distinct the variegation.

#### Flowers



enlarge COURTESY OF HIGHCOUNTRYGARDENS.COM  
SALVIA 'ULTRA VIOLET'

#### Related

[More Plant Life from the archives](#)  
[Pacific NW Magazine | You Tell Us](#)

#### Next week: annuals

Check out everything from a sea-green and pink new echeveria for your containers to a Dutch-bred marigold that doesn't stink.

#### More Pacific NW

- Portraits: Allison and Neill Ainslie | Building a future on a strong family foundation
- Plant Life: Books To Turn To
- Taste: Beyond swirling and slurping, a good glass can give your wine the air it needs
- Now & Then: Towering above it all
- Domestic Goddess: Make a clean break with help from Portland's GR Scrub
- Capitol Hill: The Beauty of Basic | A Tudor revival
- Lake Union: The Beauty of Basic | Fresh afloat
- Seattle: The Beauty of Basic | Heaven on a Hill
- Bainbridge Island: The Beauty of Basic | Remade with respect
- Queen Anne: The Beauty of Basic | Spare equals serenity
- Shilshole: The Beauty of Basic | Thrilling Restraint
- Northwest Living: Beaux Arts still takes to heart the ideals built into a well-crafted home
- Portraits: She knows that to say it with flowers, you have to listen first
- Plant Life: Top 10 plants deliver delight without a lot of fuss
- Taste: With brains and domestic skills sharp as ever, Mary Louise feeds her family's spirit
- Now & Then: Gateway To The Future
- Letters to the Editor: A real look at a dear friend
- Pacific NW Cover Story: Priced Out: Fleeing Seattle's costly core, they live on the edge

ADVERTISING

- The weird, undersea looks and name of this campanula might suggest it was discovered by Jacques Cousteau if it hadn't been bred by the ever-inventive Log House Plants. But *Campanula* 'Pink Octopus' is beautiful as well as unusual, with candy-pink petals so dissected they appear to swirl about even on a windless day.

- *Lupine* 'Pashmir' was found in India and is now debuting in our country. It's a sturdy, healthy lupine, distinguished by its luminous shade of true blue.

- Scabiosas are among the longest-blooming perennials, and their pincushion-like flowers make great cut flowers. But they tended to grow lanky and get mildew. S. 'Vivid Violet' has especially large, bright flowers on a low, mounding plant that is drought tolerant. Breeder Dan Heims describes its greatest virtue as "blooms, blooms and more blooms," from late spring through October.

- *Echinacea purpurea* 'Coconut Lime' is the first pale coneflower with double flowers. It's a compact, sturdy plant with ruffly green cones and white recurved petals set off by a russet-brown cone. Plant it where it you can enjoy all the butterflies that will flock to it.

- *Salvia* 'Ultra Violet' is a tough, hardy perennial that is drought resistant. I love that it was "a hummingbird-initiated cross," meaning that birds bred this beauty. It has aromatic foliage smothered in violet-pink flowers from July through frost, and is rabbit and deer resistant. (Available from [highcountrygardens.com](http://highcountrygardens.com)">[www.highcountrygardens.com](http://www.highcountrygardens.com).)

**Web extras!**

**Flowers**

- A new daylily (*Hemerocallis* 'Dynamite Returns') blasts the garden with summer color. Its ruffled flowers bloom early and bountifully, with dozens of buds and branches on each stem. (Available from [www.whiteflowerfarm.com](http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com).)

- *Coreopsis* 'Moonlight' is as pretty as the popular 'Moonbeam,' but its yellow, daisylike flowers turn peachy-toned as they age. And age they do, for these Energizer Bunny flowers bloom for more than 3 months.

Valerie Easton is a Seattle freelance writer and author of "A Pattern Garden." Her e-mail address is [valeaston@comcast.net](mailto:valeaston@comcast.net).

Copyright © 2008 The Seattle Times Company

[E-mail article](#) [Print view](#)

[More Pacific NW headlines...](#)

ADVERTISING

T-Mobile  
This month only!

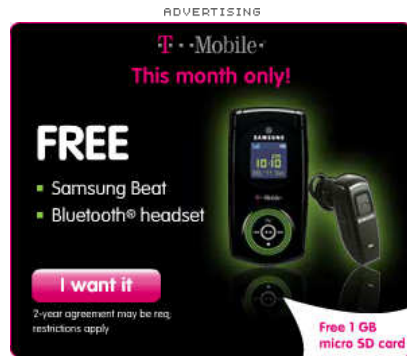
**FREE**

- Samsung Beat
- Bluetooth® headset

**I want it**

2-year agreement may be req. restrictions apply

Free 1 GB micro SD card



 Get home delivery today!



**Pella**

Want to learn more about window and door replacement?

CLICK HERE to request your **FREE GUIDE** or schedule a **FREE** in-home consultation.

- Helpful selection tips
- Handy checklists
- "What to expect" during installation and much more!

By-Step Guide Door Replacement

Answers!

**Pella® Windows and Doors**  
1919 120th Ave. NE  
Bellevue

© 2008 Pella Corporation

Marketplace

**Vote now for your favorite Seattle-area places**  
Elect your favorite places to eat, shop and play in the 2008 NWsource People's Picks contest.

Food & drink  
Entertainment  
Shopping  
Travel & recreation

**WESTERN WASHINGTON**

 **TOYOTA DEALERS**

Most read

Most e-mailed

1. "Extreme Makeover" recipient in Idaho selling home
2. Wapato teacher under investigation found dead in apparent suicide
3. Medical marijuana: How much is enough?
4. Leave the car at home and be rewarded, Nickels urges
5. Amtrak train collides with bike; woman killed
6. Breach of contract alleged in Sonics suit
7. More bad news for Sonics | Jerry Brewer
8. Sea-Tac's security: Are they serious? | Danny Westneat
9. Blair's wife tells all of randy weekend
10. Carry-on or pay extra to check a bag on American Airlines

ADVERTISING

sell your car **\$2.50** it's as simple as that. 

online listings only

Site map

Our network sites  seattletimes.com | [Advanced](#)

The Seattle Times Company

[About the company](#)  
[Employment opportunities](#)  
[Seattle Times store](#)  
[Advertise with us](#)  
[Newspapers in Education](#)

Services

[Your account / Log in](#)  
[E-mail newsletters](#)  
[Contact us](#)  
[Feedback and questions](#)  
[Submit listings](#)  
[Send us news tips](#)

News

[Home](#)  
[Local](#)  
[Nation/World](#)  
[Business/Tech](#)  
[Entertainment](#)  
[Living](#)  
[Travel/Outdoors](#)  
[Real Estate](#)  
[Sports](#)  
[Opinion](#)

Marketplace

[Jobs](#)  
[Autos](#)  
[Homes](#)  
[Rentals](#)  
[Classifieds](#)  
[Shopping](#)  
[NWsource](#)  
[Personals](#)  
[Post an ad](#)

Getting Your Newspaper

[Home delivery](#)  
[Temporary stops](#)  
[Subscriber services](#)

Other editions

[News by e-mail](#)  
[Wireless services](#)  
[RSS feeds](#)  
[e-Edition](#)  
[Low-graphic](#)

[Privacy statement](#) | [Terms of service](#)  
Copyright © 2008 The Seattle Times Company