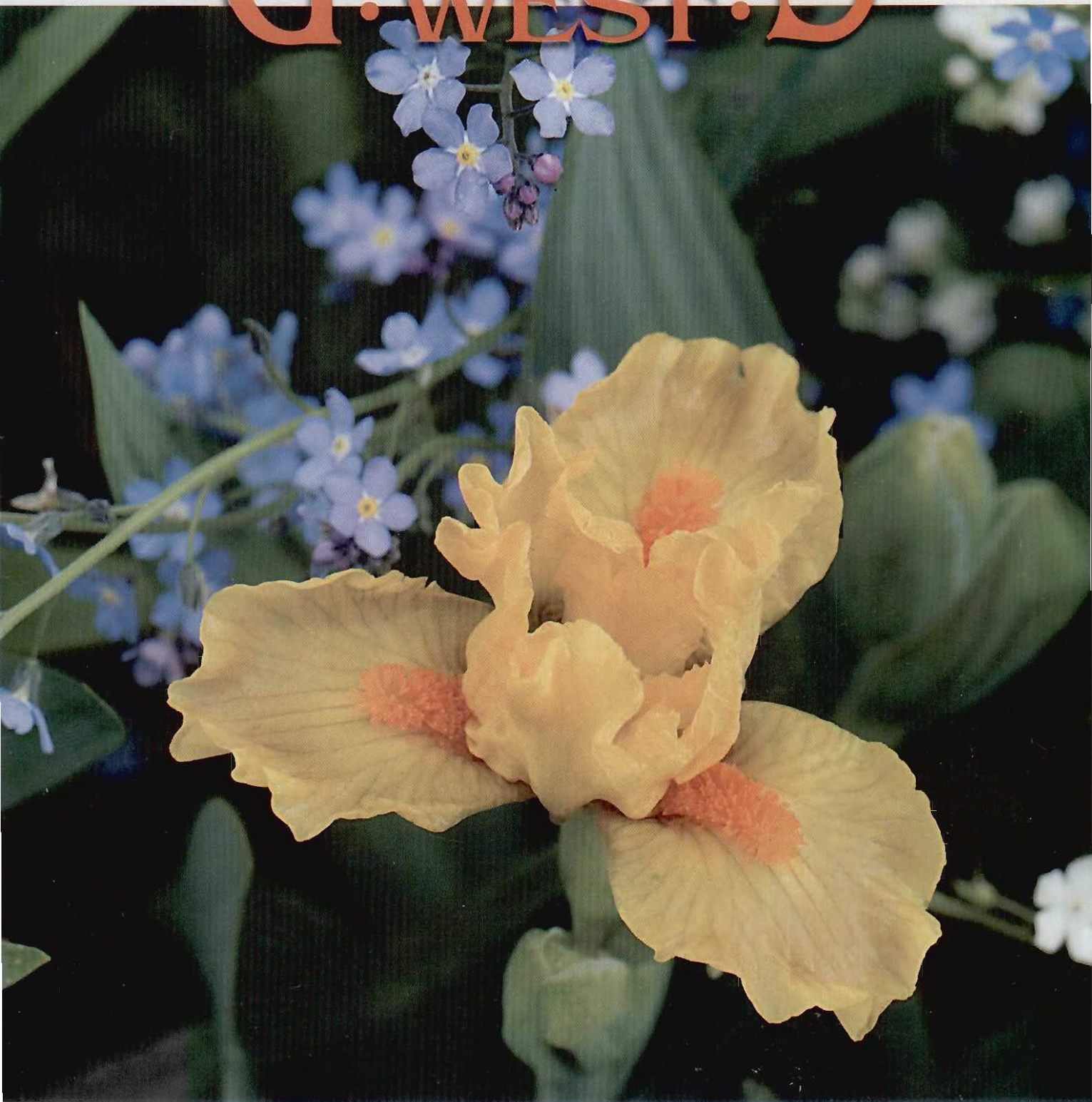


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• THAT IRRESISTIBLE IRIS • DON'S FAVOURITE FLOWERING SHRUBS

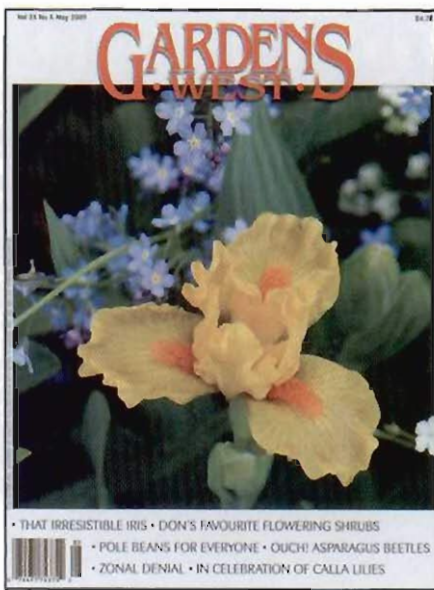
• POLE BEANS FOR EVERYONE • OUCH! ASPARAGUS BEETLES

• ZONAL DENIAL • IN CELEBRATION OF CALLA LILIES



05

2



Features

6 Ted Baker – The Iris King by Suzanne Anderton

In the early years deer ravaged Ted's Salt Spring Island garden and irises were the only plant to survive. Over the past 15 years Ted developed his passion for this flower into a prized collection, earning him the presidency of the BC Iris Society. His stunning 20-acre property has since become a sight to behold. You'll see.



p 16

22 Hot New Perennials for the Coolest Garden by Brian Minter

Get your shopping lists ready! Names like 'Saucy Seduction,' 'Big Bang,' 'Pop Star,' 'Burning Hearts' and even 'Mac 'n' Cheese' will be springing up in garden centres this year. Brian gives you a thumbs up on which new plant introductions to watch out for.

28 Garden of Weeden by Shannon McKinnon

Learn from Shannon's mistakes and avoid letting your garden go to weeds. There are many ways to keep weeds from stealing valuable nutrients from your plants – simply choose the method that works best for you and your garden.



p 24

32 Celebrating Calla Lilies by Trish Hoff

Known as calla lily, arum lily and even pig lily, zantedeschia is a plant of many names. One thing we know for sure – these magnificent stunners are timeless beauties.

40 Beyond the Rose Garden by Carol Hall

Enjoy all the satisfaction of a traditional rose garden for a fraction of the establishing costs and far less maintenance. Gorgeous, hardy and fragrant, there's a landscape rose out there for every zone.

48 Organic Lawn Care by Mark Cullen

To mow or not to mow? Mark shares advice from his new book, *The Canadian Garden Primer*, on mowing, fertilizing and watering your lawn.

58 Zonal Denial Gardening by Joanna Drewry

In Janice Currie's Oak Bay garden, there are no zonal limitations. This self-taught gardener has been developing her gardening prowess for two decades. Her garden is living proof.

66 My Favourite Flowering Shrubs by Don Burnett

An integral part of any garden, flowering shrubs are being bred smaller with longer blooming periods opening up the field for more gardeners to enjoy their beauty.



p 67

Cover Photo by Adam Gibbs

Cheerful is a great word to describe 'Tweety Bird' (Black, '92), a standard dwarf bearded iris set amongst forget-me-nots. These shorter irises are ideal for the front of the border or in rock gardens. This bright cultivar grows in Ted Baker's Salt Spring Island garden. To see more of his beautiful plants, turn to page 6.



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Departments

18 city farm boy Pole Bean Bonanza by Ward Teulon

A little work, a little space and a whole lot of rewards – this great variety of pole beans suits many different tastes, guaranteeing there's at least one bean for everyone.

26 bird chatter For Phoebe by Randy Thauberger

If you listen carefully, you'll hear this member of the flycatcher family singing its name – "fee-bee, fee-bee." Read on to hear what Randy has to say about it.

36 bug bytes That Nasty Asparagus Beetle by Ingrid Hoff

Everyone agrees asparagus is well worth the time and effort it takes to cultivate – specially the asparagus beetle. Learn to thwart this hungry critter so you can reap your own just rewards.

45 mad about ponds What's So Great About Water Plants?

by Dayleen Van Ryswyk Wonder what to add to your water feature this year? Dayleen recommends a few of her favourite water plants.

50 talkback Readers ask questions, share their triumphs and help others.

55 classifieds Look here for seeds, plants, accessories and more.

57 to-do-list Spring has sprung! Learn what needs to be done this month.

71 grapevine Find out about upcoming garden related events in your area.

HARDINESS KEY

One or more of these icons appears at the beginning of each article to show the hardiness zones each article addresses.



= Zones 1-3 Include Central & Northern BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba & Northern Montana



= Zones 4-6 Include the Okanagan, the East & West Kootenays, the southern base of the Alberta Chinook Region, Eastern & Central Washington



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Dicentra 'Burning Hearts'

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Hot New Perennials for the Coolest Garden



By Brian Minter

After a rather quiet two years of new perennial introductions, 2009 brings us some wonderful "new toys." An often-asked question is, "How many more new perennials do we really need?" New additions not only create renewed interest in gardening, they provide opportunities for new combinations, improved drought, disease and insect tolerance and longer enjoyment. After extensive research, I've found a few jewels that will really change up your garden.

One of the most outstanding is a new acanthus from Terra Nova Nurseries in Oregon called "Tasmanian Angel" (Zone 7). Its distinctive white and green variegated foliage is appealing

from spring through to late fall. Its soft pink spiky flowers are absolutely stunning. At a garden tour last summer, it was the number one "ooh and ahh" getter. Its flowers last for weeks



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Dianthus 'Pop Star'



Dianthus 'Pop Star' and 'Starlette'



PHOTO COURTESY SKAGIT GARDENS

Coreopsis 'Big Bang™ Red Shift' is red and yellow in the heat (above) and deep crimson in cooler weather (below).



PHOTO COURTESY SKAGIT GARDENS

Here's a cool shot of 'Red Shift.'

and its complementary foliage hangs on until frost.

Achilleas are getting better and better for long flowering and summer drought tolerance. The recent Seduction Series is all of the above. Achillea 'Saucy Seduction,' 'Strawberry Seduction' and 'Sunny Seduction' (Zone 4) are large flowered, great basal branching plants with real punchy hot pink, hot red and bright yellow colouring, respectively.



Bergenia 'Lunar Glow'

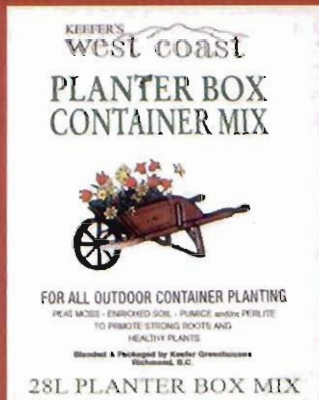


The leaves of B. 'Lunar Glow' turn burgundy tones in winter with variegations.

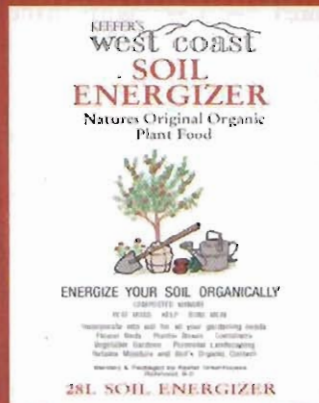
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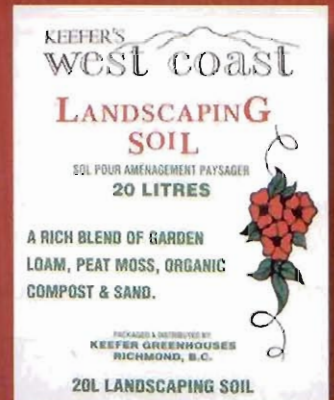
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Acanthus "Tasmanian Angel"™ foliage



TERRA NOVA NURSERIES, INC. PHOTO

Echinacea "Tomato Soup"

Acanthus "Tasmanian Angel"™

The first truly variegated bergenia, whose name will remain quietly unmentioned, was not so variegated its second season around. *Bergenia* 'Lunar Glow' (Zone 5) should correct that situation nicely.

Its lush yellow and rich green splashed leaves turn burgundy tones in winter with variegations, of



PHOTO COURTESY SKAGIT GARDENS, WWW.SKAGITGARDENS.COM

Achillea "Saucy Seduction"



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Echinacea "Pink Poodle"

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course, and its new growth is quite something. Its bright pink spring flowers only enhance its beauty.

Quite a few coreopsis have been introduced over the past few years – and some nice ones too – but are you ready for a big bang? *Coreopsis* 'Big Bang'™ Red Shift' and 'Big Bang'™

'Full Moon' (Zone 5) sport huge 6-8cm (2.5-3") blossoms that change colour depending upon the summer heat. 'Red Shift' is red-yellow in the heat and deep crimson in cooler weather. 'Full Moon' will tend to be less vibrant when the sun's set on "roast." These two varieties are quite drought tolerant and will be great eye candy in any garden.

Not to say there aren't lots of nice dianthus out there, but the new 'Pop Star' and 'Starlette' are too silly to know when to quit blooming.

Seriously, we started them in a greenhouse late last summer and they bloomed rather quickly with good-sized soft pink and magenta flowers. Both varieties have a very strong carnation fragrance and neither know

when to quit blooming, even when frozen solid in a cold greenhouse – they're still in bloom! Their flowers have strong stems and their foliage is an intense blue and seems to stand up well in winter, unlike so many of their relatives.

This is "The Year of the Bleeding Hearts," and I'm not talking about the recession. 'Spring Magic,' 'Candy Hearts' and 'King of Hearts' are all very nice.

But a terrific compact dicentra variety called 'Burning Hearts' (Zone 3) really caught my eye. Rising above masses of lacy blue foliage, these intensely deep red hearts raise the temperature in any garden.

This standout may not have the same vigour as the other two – but it's still a keeper.

Our entire industry is trying to become more relevant to younger generations and what better way than with macaroni and cheese, along with tomato soup? The latest



PHOTO COURTESY SKAGIT GARDENS. WWW.SKAGITGARDENS.COM

The Westcountry™ Series of lupines includes 'Manhattan Lights' (purple and yellow bicolour) and 'Masterpiece' (purple with orange flecks).



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARCO VAN NOORT

Geranium 'Sweet Heidi' good echinaceas are *Echinacea* 'Mac 'n' Cheese' and *E.* 'Tomato Soup' (Zone 4). As you would expect, 'Mac 'n' Cheese' is the same colour as this famous gourmet delight and 'Tomato Soup' has 12cm (5") red flowers. Wow!

If this isn't enough for you, how about a big fluffy 10cm (4") pink flower head called *E.* 'Pink Poodle' (Zone 4)? They're all good varieties from Terra Nova. As this will be our first season with them, I'm really hungry to see them.

The introduction of the geraniums 'Rozanne' and 'Jolly Bee' gave us the first non-stop blooming geraniums that single-handedly repositioned geraniums as long blooming perennials. Well, meet their mate, 'Sweet Heidi,' a perfect companion for the others with pink-toned flowers that create a geranium match made in gardening heaven.

Sometimes it seems as if the more we get new stuff, the more we come full circle. Lupines are in again – as are many old fashioned favourites – but with a difference.

When I first saw the price of these new lupine plugs, I winced.

They had better walk on water! Well, the jury's still out until I see the first blooms this spring but the Westcountry™ Series, including *Lupinus* 'Masterpiece' and 'Manhattan Lights' (Zone 4), are supposed to be real zingers. They are both strong, husky

plants with thick stems that display unique colour blends, on *L.* 'Masterpiece,' and fantastic purple and yellow bicolour flowers, on *L.* 'Manhattan Lights.'

These are but a few of the new introductions this year that should whet your appetite for adding new elements to your garden.

Because they are so new, you may have to track some of these varieties down. But like finding gold, it's pay dirt when you do. Have fun with them – I know I will.☺



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