

**IN EVERY ISSUE:** TIME- & MONEY-SAVING TIPS

# Garden Gate®

## 2021's BEST NEW PLANTS

*for Sun & Shade*

**PLANT  
COMBOS  
WE LOVE!**

**[BONUS]  
HOW TO GET  
BETTER  
SOIL**

**5** SIMPLE STEPS  
TO A BETTER BORDER

**STOP WORKING  
SO HARD!**  
*One Gardener's Secrets*

**BUDGET-FRIENDLY  
POT MAKEOVER**

January/February 2021

**EXCLUSIVE PLAN:** Easy Solutions  
for Shade Tree Struggles



GardenGateMagazine.com

**1 North Star™ Plum hellebore** *Helleborus* hybrid

Deep purple double flowers make this hellebore a stunning sight in late winter or early spring. Leathery, easy-care foliage is deer-resistant and low-maintenance — just cut ratty leaves back to the ground in early spring.

**Perennial** **Best feature:** Deep plum-purple double blooms  
**Light:** Full sun to full shade **Soil:** Well-drained **Size:** 25 to 30 in. tall, 38 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 4 to 9 **Introducer:** Terra Nova Nurseries **Source:** Sooner Plant Farm, soonerplantfarm.com

**2 Jurassic Gold™ wood fern**

*Dryopteris wallichiana*

Golden orange foliage from this wood fern emerges in spring, adding color as well as texture to your shade garden. By summer the leaves mature to yellow-green. You can grow it in the garden or use it to create a stunning shade-tolerant container planting.

**Perennial** **Best feature:** Bright, golden orange spring foliage  
**Light:** Part to full shade **Soil:** Well-drained **Size:** 24 in. tall, 18 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 5 to 9 **Introducer:** Concept Plants **Source:** Local garden centers

**3 Cordial Canary bugleweed** *Ajuga reptans*

Part of the Feathered Friends™ series, Cordial Canary is the first bugleweed with golden yellow foliage. It boasts blue-purple spring blooms. Plants are vigorous but not so much that they spread into the lawn like other bugleweed varieties do. The foliage is evergreen in mild winter areas and semi-evergreen in USDA zones 4 to 5.

**Perennial** **Best feature:** It's a gold-foliaged bugleweed **Light:** Full sun to part shade **Soil:** Well-drained **Size:** 6 to 8 in. tall, 18 to 24 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 4 to 8 **Introducer:** Garden Solutions, LLC **Source:** Local garden centers

**4 Frilly coral bells** *Heuchera* hybrid

The leaves of this perennial are so ruffly that it almost looks like a mound of undersea coral. If you plant it in full sun, just make sure plants get consistent moisture. Small pale pink blooms might show up but this plant is really all about the foliage.

**Perennial** **Best feature:** Super ruffly caramel-colored foliage  
**Light:** Full sun to part shade **Soil:** Moist, well-drained **Size:** 12 to 14 in. tall and wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 5 to 9 **Introducer:** Concept Plants **Source:** Local garden centers

**5 'Pull of the Moon' hosta** *Hosta* hybrid

This beautiful variegated hosta just gets better and better. Its slender pointed leaves have blue-green margins, or edges, with yellow centers that brighten as the season progresses. In summer, 26- to 30-inch-tall scapes emerge sporting lavender blooms that hummingbirds can't resist.

**Perennial** **Best feature:** Variegated blue-green foliage with a yellow center **Light:** Part shade **Soil:** Moist, well-drained **Size:** 16 in. tall, 36 in. wide **Cold hardy:** USDA zones 3 to 8 **Introducer:** Bob Solberg **Source:** Green Hill Hostas, hostahosta.com, 919-309-0649



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF TERRA NOVA® NURSERIES, INC., WWW.TERRANOVANURSERIES.COM (1); COURTESY OF CONCEPT PLANTS (2,4); COURTESY OF WWW.GARDENSOLUTIONSPLANTS.COM (3); COURTESY OF BOB SOLBERG (5)

## Botanical Names

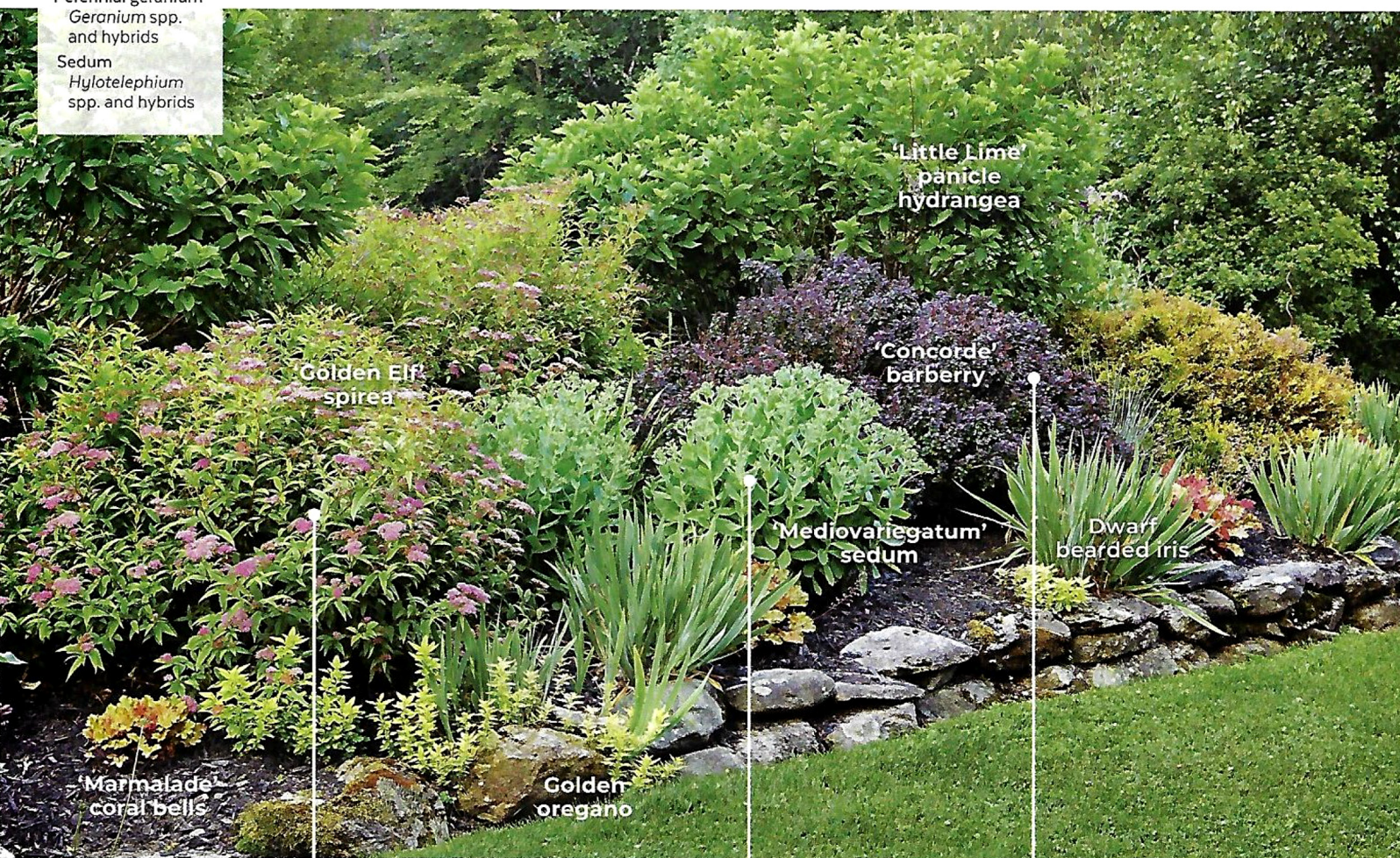
- Bearded iris  
*Iris* spp. and hybrids
- Bee balm  
*Monarda didyma*
- Bishop's weed  
*Aegopodium podagraria*
- Coral bells  
*Heuchera* spp. and hybrids
- Evening primrose  
*Oenothera* spp. and hybrids
- Garden phlox  
*Phlox paniculata*
- Golden oregano  
*Origanum vulgare*
- Perennial bachelor's button  
*Centaurea montana*
- Perennial geranium  
*Geranium* spp. and hybrids
- Sedum  
*Hylotelephium* spp. and hybrids

The front border is basically a mound of earth created from the soil that was excavated for the basement when Kathleen and her husband built the house in 1985. “The area in front of the house was totally flat,” says Kathleen. “This mound was the first landscaping gesture—it added some height, defined a garden area and embraced the house.” It soon became a “mad dash” to turn the muddy construction site into grass and flower gardens.

**CAN'T SAY NO** “I planted whatever castoffs people gave me,” Kathleen says. “Everything from phlox to monarda, Bishop’s weed to evening primrose. I also grew lots of annuals from seed. Like most beginning flower gardeners, I wanted to try everything.”

The 50-foot border eventually became a jumble. Over time, the passalong plants gradually revealed themselves to be unruly. And the stony subsoil became less fertile. “Plants struggled, it looked chaotic and was way too much work,” she says. So about 15 years ago, she hired a college student to dig out every plant. Most were tossed or planted into the meadow. She did her homework and selected several types of shrubs, which she used to create repeated masses of foliage colors and textures. She looks for plants that stay where they are planted, that are not aggressive and do not self-sow. Plants she considers low maintenance do not flop, splay or break during the season.

**4 | The front side of the border** features repeated clumps of dwarf bearded iris and coral bells at the front that provide handsome foliage all season long with no work. Golden oregano is allowed to creep among the boulders.



### POLITE PLANTS

Perennial geraniums that spread around were replaced with golden-leaved dwarf spirea, which stays put and doesn't require any special care or feeding.

### DEPENDABLE CHOICE

This succulent variegated sedum has taken the place of other perennials that needed staking or frequent deadheading.

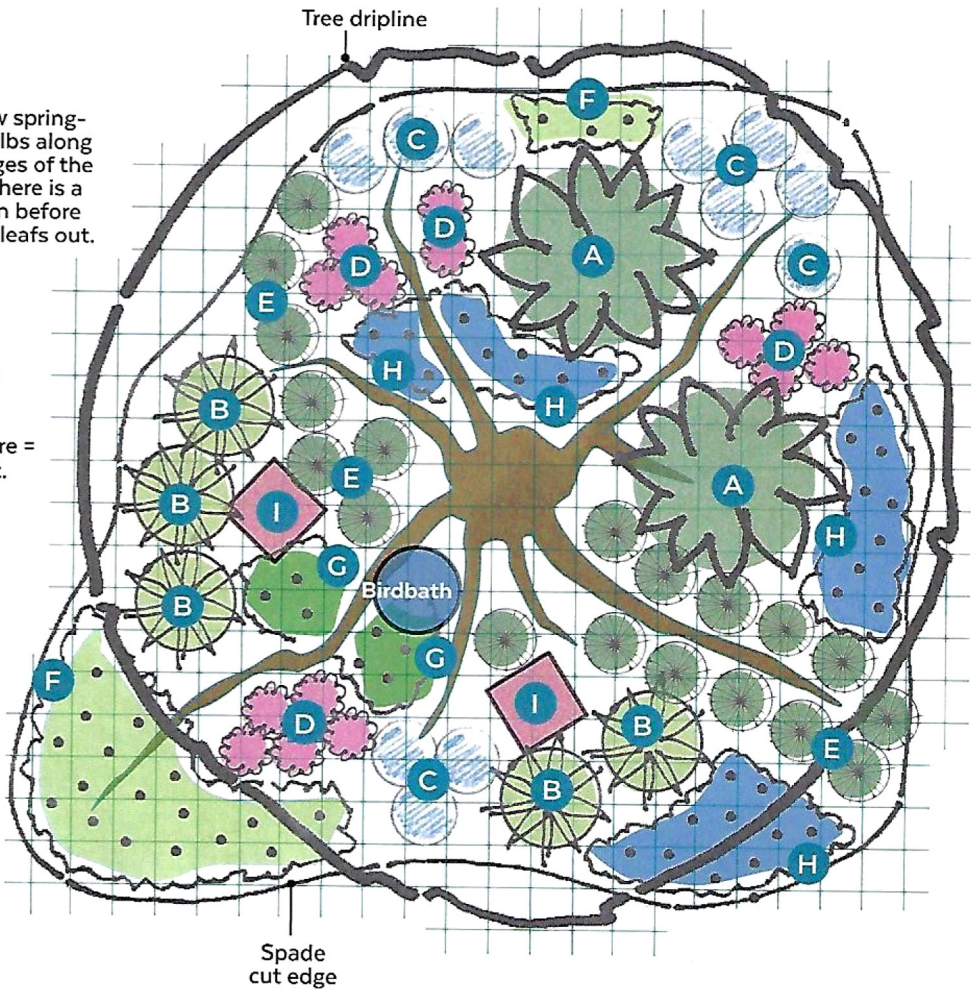
### COMPACT SHRUBS

Perennial bachelor's button needed to be divided every few years and was prone to mildew, so it was swapped out for purple-leaved barberry, which stays small.

Tuck in a few spring-blooming bulbs along the outer edges of the bed where there is a bit more sun before the tree fully leafs out.



Scale: 1 square = 1 square ft.



## Caring for This Island Bed

In spring cut back and rake up dead foliage and replenish mulch if you need to. When summer arrives, just deadhead faded flowers to encourage new growth. Once the hosta foliage has browned in fall, cut down all the foliage to prevent the large leaves from forming an impenetrable mat. The rest of the perennials can be left for spring cleanup. In fact, some, such as wild ginger and coral bells, will remain evergreen in many regions.

About every third year, divide and replant overcrowded perennials. Hosta can be divided in early spring or late summer/early fall. If dividing perennials in the fall, give the plants several weeks to get re-established before winter. Water thoroughly after replanting and remember to apply mulch.

Bugleweed can spread quickly so contain it by removing runner offsets twice a year. Lilyturf also spreads. Keep it in check by digging up plants growing where you don't want them to. To maintain attractive lilyturf foliage, use grass shears to cut the foliage back to the ground in late winter or early spring before new growth begins.

And finally, before the ground freezes, dig and store the nonhardy caladium bulbs and tuck in a few spring-flowering bulbs, if you'd like more color! 🌱

—Angie Coyier

ANGIE is a landscape architect as well as a lover of stone, giant hosta and native pollinator plants.

- A** **Hosta** *Hosta* 'Empress Wu' Perennial; dark green deeply veined leaves with lavender flowers in summer; full to part shade; 3 to 4 ft. tall (taller in flower), 5 to 6 ft. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9 **Number to plant: 2**
- B** **Hosta** *Hosta* 'Francee' Perennial; dark green heart-shaped leaves with a cleanly defined white edge, lavender flowers in mid- to late summer; full shade; 12 to 24 in. tall (taller in flower), 24 to 36 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9 **Number to plant: 5**
- C** **Brunnera** *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack Frost' Perennial; silver leaves with contrasting green veins and clusters of blue flowers in early spring; full shade to part shade; 12 to 18 in. tall, 18 to 24 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 8 **Number to plant: 11**
- D** **Coral bells** *Heuchera* x 'Paris' Perennial; minty green foliage with deep rose-pink flowers from spring through summer; full sun to part shade; 6 to 10 in. tall (up to 14 in. in bloom), 10 to 14 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9 **Number to plant: 14**
- E** **Creeping lilyturf** *Liriope spicata* Perennial; deep green grasslike foliage with purple flower spikes in summer; part shade; 8 to 15 in. tall, spreading; cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 10 **Number to plant: 19**
- F** **Wild ginger** *Asarum canadense* Perennial; large dark green leaves up to 7 in. wide, purple-brown flowers form under the leaves in early spring; part to full shade; 6 to 12 in. tall, spreading; cold hardy in USDA zones 3 to 8 **Number to plant: 20**
- G** **European wild ginger** *Asarum europaeum* Perennial; creeping ground cover with glossy dark green leaves, purple-brown flowers form under foliage in spring; part to full shade; 4 to 9 in. tall, spreading; cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 8 **Number to plant: 7**
- H** **Bugleweed** *Ajuga reptans* Black Scallop Perennial; very dark and glossy scalloped foliage with deep blue flower spikes in spring; full sun to part shade; 3 to 6 in. tall, spreading; cold hardy in USDA zones 4 to 9 **Number to plant: 28**
- I** **Caladium** *Caladium* Fast Flash™ Tender bulb; red foliage with pink specks and green margins; full sun to full shade; 15 to 20 in. tall, 10 to 14 in. wide; cold hardy in USDA zones 9 to 11 **Number to plant: 6 (3 per container)**

