



the way not

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A collection of amazing plants for 2007, from new to tried and true. See what designers and die-hard gardeners alike are really excited about this year

BY JENNY ANDREWS

ANNUALS

[1] **Acalypha 'Bourbon Street'** A tropical foliage plant variegated with green and orange. Not only hot looking but stands up to the heat (part of the Athens Select™ program).

[2] **Cleome** From Proven Winners come several new compact, floriferous varieties of spider flower—Senorita Rosalita™ with dark foliage and dark purplish pink flowers, and the Spirit™ series, which includes Appleblossom, Frost and Violeta.

[3] **Gerbera Giant Spinners™** Bodger Botanicals brings us this eye-popping, super-sized gerbera daisy, with huge, double, bicolored flowers that sparkle in pink/white, red/white or yellow/orange, 6 to 8 inches across.

[4] **Impatiens VIVA! SunPatiens™** Impatiens for the sun? You betcha. From Sakata Seed, this new line of busy lizzies tolerates sun, heat and humidity, passing muster at the University of Georgia trial gardens. Introduced by Floragem, they received the 2006 Home Depot Merchandising Innovation Award.

[5] **Iresine 'Blazin' Rose'** A foliage annual from Ball Seed with glowing fuchsia-pink and green leaves on 2- to 3-foot hot-pink stems. Stunning in the garden but also a great companion plant in a container.

[6] **Osteospermum Kenai™ Grande Pineapple** Taller than many African daisies, this introduction from Selecta First Class has luscious creamy yellow flowers with a purple eye on upright mounding plants. Other mouth-watering names in the series are Pineapple Blush, Honeydew and Orange Dream.

[7] **Sanvitalia procumbens** A charming little annual with miniature yellow daisy flowers, small leaves and reddish stems. Forms a mound at the front of the border or cascades over the edge of a pot. Flowers of the species have a brown eye; cultivars like 'Irish Eyes' and 'Orange Sprite' have a green eye.

[8] **Verbena x hybrida Escapade™ Bright Eye** Large clusters of starry, soft pink flowers dotted with bright fuchsia eyes.

[9] **Viola 'Skippy XL Red-Gold'** The first *Viola cornuta* to win an AAS (All-America Selec-

tions) award after being tested in Canada and the United States, including the South. Whiskered yellow faces are surrounded by ruby red with hints of violet.

[10] **Viola Sorbet™ Antique Shades**

Pansies have become standard cool-season plants for much of the country. But violas, with their neat mounds of small foliage and quarter-size blooms tuck naturally into perennial beds, and can be more reliable bloomers and more robust plants for many areas. The Sorbet™ series has lots of choices; Antique Shades (shown) is coppery purple.

[11] **Zinnia 'Zowie! Yellow Flame'** A fiery combination of scarlet rose centers and yellow petal tips. This snazzy, medium-size zinnia is easy to grow from seed, blooms all season and is a long-lasting cut flower.

PERENNIALS

[12] **Agastache** For hummingbird lovers, try 'Ava', the top-selling plant for High Country Gardens in New Mexico, introduced in 2005. Huge spikes of dark rose flowers and raspberry calyxes. Just out of the gate is hummingbird mint 'Orange Flare' with full heads of flaming-orange flowers.

[13] **Coreopsis** Two new coreopsis from Terra Nova show the increasing range of possibilities in this native genus. 'Pinwheel' (shown) has tubular petals of butter yellow and delicate bluish green foliage. 'Snowberry' shines with white petals and raspberry centers.

[14] **Echinacea** The magic continues with purple coneflower introductions. 'Green Eyes' has green centers on its young cones. 'Merlot' (shown) has large flowers on nearly-black stems. 'Raspberry Tart' has numerous, smaller, shuttlecock-shaped flowers.

[15] **Helenium 'Mardi Gras'** Drought tolerant and long blooming, the native genus *Helenium* (with the unfortunate common name of sneezeweed) should find wider use. 'Mardi Gras' from Blooms of Bressingham has a



Hot-pink iresine to make pots pop, giant double-flowered gerbera daisies, impatiens for sun, green-eyed echinacea, a coreopsis that's totally tubular



HOT BOX

awesome agaves

Bold, architectural statements in the garden, agaves are also water-wise, though they're not just for desert locations. Use them singly as an exclamation point, en masse or in containers. The number of good choices is mind-boggling, with plenty of options even for Zone 7 or colder.

[16] *Agave toumeyana* var. *bella* A new dwarf agave, 4 inches across and 5 inches tall, from High Country Gardens in New Mexico. Narrow leaves are

thinly edged in white and sport curly white threads.

[17] *Agave virginica* 'Spot' A purple-spotted selection of the native rattlesnake aloe with 16-inch leaves and 4- to 6-foot-tall stalks of fragrant flowers in summer.

[18] *Agave gentryi* 'Jaws' Yucca Do Nursery in Texas brings us this startling century plant, with 2-foot-long, ultra-toothy leaves, like the jaws of a shark. Peter Benchley would be proud.

[19] *Agave stricta* Sometimes called hedgehog

agave for its pencil-thin leaves. Forms a tight meatball sphere 2 feet across. Strange green and purple spidery flowers bloom on a 6-foot spike in late summer.

[20] *Agave parryi* Parry's agave is a Southwest native with lots of forms and cultivars. The new 'Cream Spike' offered by Plant Delights makes a 1-foot-wide clump of blue leaves with cream borders. The Flagstaff form from High Country Gardens is hardy to a bone-chilling Zone 4.



frill of tie-dyed petals in orange and yellow around a bulbous brown cone.

[21] *Hemerocallis* 2007 All-American Daylilies winner Lavender Vista™ has green-eyed, clear lavender flowers 5 to 6 inches across, hovering on 2-foot scapes above vigorous foliage. More shade tolerant than most daylilies. 'Ed Brown'—ice pink with ruffled gold edges—is the 2006 winner of the coveted Stout Silver Medal.

[22] *Heuchera* The wealth of great heucheras is truly overwhelming. From Terra Nova (a cornucopia of this genus) comes 'Rave On', a super-heavy bloomer with masses of dark pink flowers over silvery leaves.

[23] *Hibiscus* 'Cinnamon Grappa' One of the Cordial series from Yoder Brothers (which also includes 'Cherry Brandy', 'Brandy Punch' and 'Peppermint Schnapps'). Flowers are 8 to 10 inches across, on compact plants 3 to 4 feet tall and 2 feet wide. 'Cinnamon Grappa' has ruby-red flowers and bronzy leaves. With the native *H. moscheutos* in its parentage, it can also take the heat.

[24] *Hibiscus acetosella* 'Haight Ashbury' Psychedelic! A Proven Winners introduction, this herbaceous hibiscus is similar to 'Maple Sugar', with maple-leaf-shaped foliage, dark stems and reddish purple flowers, but with wild splashes of cream, pink and burgundy on the leaves. Hardy to Zone 8.

[25] *Lochroma cyaneum* This choice, tender (Zones 9-11), shrubby perennial from South America can reach 4 to 8 feet tall. Numerous clusters of 2-inch, tubular, rich purple flowers bloom throughout the summer.

[26] *Kniphofia northiae*, Known as the giant poker. Agave-like foliage matures to a 6-foot-wide clump of gray-green leaves 6 inches wide, sporting 3-foot, sturdy spikes of pinkish red flowers maturing to yellow beginning in late spring. Brought to us from South Africa by Tony Avent of Plant Delights Nursery in North Carolina.

[27] *Penstemon Phoenix™ Red* Glorious upright spikes of large, tubular, vivid red flowers with white throats. Other colors in the Phoenix™ series from Fischer USA are Appleblossom, Magenta, Pink and Violet.

[28] *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Firetail' A fleecy flower with bright crimson fingers of flowers hovering over clumps of dark green leaves. Blooms profusely from early summer into fall. From Blooms of Bressingham.

[29] *Saruma henryi* A collector's plant for the shade garden. This relative of wild ginger (asarum) makes a 2-foot-tall clump of soft heart-shaped leaves topped in spring and summer by butter-yellow flowers.

[30] *Scabiosa caucasica* 'Ultra Violet' Scabiosa has been one of the great perennial genera to come on the market, known for its long bloom period, producing kinetic heads of pincushion flowers. Most are pastel pink

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and blue, but 'Ultra Violet' brings us a much more intense color option—electric blue-purple blooms on 2-foot stalks.

[31] Zantedeschia 'Edge of Night' An elegant new calla lily. Purplish black flowers are striking against green, silver-flecked leaves with dark edges. Hardy in Zones 8 to 10.

GRASSY PLANTS

[32] Baumea rubiginosa 'Variegata' A well-behaved alternative to horsetails for water gardens and damp sites, this sedge relative (also sold under the genus machaerina) has 1- to 3-foot upright green quills striped lengthwise with yellow. Hardy in Zones 6 to 11.

[33] Chondropetalum elephantinum Popular in California gardens, this member of the restio family forms a 5-foot-tall clump of reedy leaves and interesting chocolate-brown flowers and seedheads. Called large cape rush for its nativity to the Cape region of South Africa, it is drought-tolerant. Makes a great texture plant. Hardy to Zone 9.

[34] Corynephorus canescens 'Spiky Blue' Like a big blue-green Koosh ball, silver grass forms a 10-inch-tall dome of delicate needlelike leaves. This refined texture belies its toughness—as a native of coastal dunes, it can endure dry, windy, acidic conditions with ease. A good blue-green grass for the rock garden. Hardy to Zone 7.

[35] Isolepis cernua Like green threads the dainty leaves of fiber optic grass form a 6-

to 8-inch-tall mound, with a tiny straw-colored flower at the tip of each blade. Needs lots of moisture. Use as an annual in a container, at the edge of the water garden or in a terrarium.

[36] Phyllostachys vivax f. aureocaulis Only available for top prices at plant auctions a few years ago, the golden Chinese timber bamboo has now finally reached the general trade. With much better manners than most hardy bamboos, this cultivar forms a clump of golden canes striped with green. Quick to mature, canes can reach an impressive 5 inches across and over 30 feet tall. Hardy to Zone 5.

[37] Setaria palmifolia 'Rubra Variegata' Pleated emerald-green blades with crisp white edges emerge from dark rose sheaths on short knotty bronze stems of the variegated palm grass. Bottlebrush flowers appear in fall, but the foliage is the big show. Hardy in Zones 8 to 10 but makes a striking and unexpected addition to container combos elsewhere.



SHRUBS

[38] Corylus avellana Red Majestic® A new version of Harry Lauder's walking stick with the best of everything—twisted stems of contorted filbert and the burgundy foliage



HOT BOX

antique shades

Hot colors are still hot, but with all the screaming intensity out there, it's nice to give your eyes a break with shades that are soft yet more vibrant than pastels. They "play well with others," coordinating with and complementing a wide variety of foliage and flowers. Modern but with an old-fashioned appeal.

[39] Calibrachoa Earthy tones on small, petunia-like flowers—rosy central stars with vanilla edges on Callie™ Rose Star; delicate

purple veining over a yellow background on Callie™ Purple Sunrise (shown). Both from Fischer USA.

[40] Phlox 'Sherbet Cocktail' Rounded heads of flowers look more like miniature hydrangeas than summer phlox. Opening from yellow buds, petals are pink or white, tipped with pale yellow. (The first phlox to ever show yellow in its flowers.)

[41] Nemesia Sachet™ Berries and Cream Clouds of dainty flowers blend blueberry purple and white.

[42] Verbascum Several mulleins offer an alluring antique look. 'Plum Smokey' is smoky purple; 'Caribbean Crush' has ruffled petals of mango, pale pink and burnt orange; 'Jackie' is peachy pink with beige overtones.

[43] Iris A number of bearded irises combine lush, frilly petals with sophisticated, subdued colors. 'Lip Service', 'Artistic Blend' and 'Chasing Rainbows' are three lovely options.



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HOT BOX

fruitful endeavor

The hot trend of ornamental edibles includes more than patio tomatoes. Dwarf fruit trees offer handsome foliage and fragrant flowers in addition to their table-worthy benefits. Grow them in pots indoors or on the patio, or outdoors in small-space gardens in warmer zones, and enjoy the fruits of your labors—literally.

[44] Citrus Lots of choices, such as 'Nagami' kumquat, 'Washington' navel orange and 'Meyer Improved' lemon. 'Eureka' lemon (shown) has

variegated leaves and fruit.

[45] *Ficus carica* Semi-dwarf 'Black Jack' fig can be pruned to maintain a 6-foot height. Summer brings sweet purple fruit. The dwarf 'Petite Negra' reaches only 6 feet by 3 feet, perfect for containers.

[46] *Persea americana* 'Don Gillogly' A dwarf avocado that can be grown on the patio and brought indoors to enjoy during winter.

[47] *Musa acuminata* 'Dwarf Cavendish' This banana grows only 6 to 8 feet tall

(10 feet outdoors in hot zones like south Florida), but produces nearly full-size fruit. Will bear up to 90 bananas per season once the plant is mature.

[48] *Olea europaea* 'Arbequina' An olive tree that can be grown in a large container, or in the garden in Zones 8 to 11. Reaches 8 to 10 feet tall in five years. Fragrant, creamy white flowers in spring are followed in summer by masses of olives, green at first then turning glossy black.



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and catkins of purple hazel. Truly a four-season plant. And low maintenance to boot.

[49] *Cupressus sempervirens* Tiny Tower® Perfect little evergreen for a container or a vertical accent in the garden. This blue-green, slow-growing Italian cypress (8 feet tall and 2 feet wide in a decade) from Monrovia needs no pruning to maintain its columnar form, though it can easily be shaped into topiary.

[50] *Fatsia japonica* 'Spider's Web' Big fan-shaped leaves are dramatically flecked and splashed with white on this tropical-looking shrub from Japan. Clusters of white flowers bloom in fall, followed by grape-purple berries. Hardy in Zones 7 to 10.

[51] *Hydrangea macrophylla* Like 1950s party dresses, the high fashion collection of Halo™ hydrangeas from Hines Horticulture has frilly flowers edged in white. Compact enough at 3 feet for containers. (Halo™ Angle Song shown.) The Cityline™ series, developed in Germany and part of the Proven Winners' ColorChoice® collection, has sturdy stems and intense colors. Selections include Berlin, Paris, Venice and Vienna.

[52] *Kolkwitzia amabilis* Dream Catcher™ Old-fashioned beautybush is known for having an abundant spring flower display then quietly disappearing into the landscape. Not so with this new version. Golden foliage tipped with bronze glows all season long, with an extra punch of color in the fall. Soft pink flowers bloom in spring.

[53] *Lagerstroemia* Cherry Dazzle® Part of the Razzle Dazzle® series developed by Michael Dirr and introduced in 2006 by McCorkle Nurseries. Burgundy buds open to clusters of small cherry-red flowers from summer into fall. Other flower colors in the series are white and shades of pink. Maxes out at 3 to 5 feet high and wide.

[54] *Leycesteria formosa* Golden Lanterns® This Himalayan honeysuckle packs a lot into a growing season—chartreuse foliage with amber new growth, white flower clusters backed by beet-red bracts in summer, purple berries in fall. Hardy to Zone 6.

[55] *Loropetalum chinensis* Three new loropetalums offer rich purple foliage on dense plants. From PDSI come Purple Diamond™ (shown), a rounded shrub to 5 feet, and dwarfspreading Purple Pixie™, 1 to 2 feet tall and 4 to 5 feet wide. From the Gardener's Confidence Collection, the Glowing Horizons™ series includes Little Rose Dawn™ with dainty pink blooms.

[56] *Rhododendron* 'President Roosevelt' Practically an antique but coming back in vogue. Developed in Holland in the 1920s and named for Teddy Roosevelt, this rhodie is famous for its variegated foliage, with a





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bright gold streak along the midrib. The show intensifies in spring as trusses of large flowers open red then become white in the centers.

[57] Rosa Burgundy Iceberg™ and Topsy Turvy™ Two new floribundas from Weeks Roses have a lively two-tone effect. Burgundy Iceberg™ has all the garden-worthy qualities of its ancestors 'Brilliant Pink Iceberg' and 'Iceberg' but with burgundy petals and a cream-colored reverse. Topsy Turvy™ has white buds that swirl open into a pinwheel of petals, scarlet on top, white beneath.



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[58] Rosa Strike It Rich™, Rainbow Knock Out™, Moondance™ The AARS (All-America Rose Selections) brings us three 2007 winners. The grandiflora Strike It Rich™ from Weeks Roses has gold petals polished with rosy pink and a spicy fragrance. Rainbow Knock Out® (shown) from Conard-Pyle has the long bloom period and disease resistance of its popular predecessor Knock Out® but with coral pink flowers. Moondance™, a floribunda from Jackson & Perkins, has clusters of creamy white blooms; a larger-flowered offspring of 'Iceberg'.



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TREES

[59] Abies koreana 'Horstmann's Silberlocke' Striking fir tree with needles recurved strongly upward to reveal



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Swaths of starry daisies, clouds of dainty pink phlox, a row of perfectly conical evergreens. Blah, blah, blah. Try something unconventional! Funky, freaky plants are in. They bring textural variety, create focal points and break up the monotony of the expected—and sometimes even add a little humor.

[64] Spilanthes oleracea "Eyeballs" of tiny yellow and maroon flowers. Other curious "petal-less" flowers

their lighter undersides, giving the plant a silvery look and interesting texture. Slow growing, eventually reaching about 20 feet.

[60] Acer circinatum 'Pacific Fire' Cultivar of the small Northwest native vine maple with bright coral-red bark and large leaves, chartreuse blushed with rose. Yellow-orange fall color is spectacular with the red twigs. A beautiful winter accent also. Zones 4 to 8.

[61] Acer palmatum 'Ariadne' A recent Japanese maple introduction from Holland. Deeply cut, toothed leaves emerge in gorgeous shades of bronzy pink with dark green veins, changing to purple-green with dark red veins in summer, burnished orange in the fall. Hardy in Zones 5 to 9.

[62] Cornus angustata Empress of China™ An evergreen dogwood covered with branch-bending masses of starry white flowers in early summer, set against handsome dark green foliage. Flowers are followed in late summer by globular red fruits. Begins blooming at a young age. Smaller than many dogwood trees at 10 to 12 feet.

[63] Cotinus coggygria 'Young Lady' Exciting new smoke-tree from Holland introduced in the United States by Spring Meadow Nursery with a cloud of blooms from summer to fall, producing a poodle-ball of fluffy pink flowers at the end of every branch, even on young plants. Fall color is a bright blend of orange, yellow and red. Grows 4 to 6 feet tall and can be kept small with pruning.

HOT BOX

dr. seuss style

include *Helenium* 'Autumn Lollipop' and *Rudbeckia occidentalis* 'Green Wizard'.

[65] Echinacea purpurea 'Doppelganger' ('Doubledecker') This party-girl purple coneflower is decked out in a flared skirt of pink petals and a matching hat of flowers sprouting from the top.

[66] Juncus effusus f. spiralis Like a bad hair day, corkscrew rushes form a crazy "do" of spiraling quill-like stems. 'Blonde Ambition' and 'Frenzy' are wildly striped gold and green.

[67] Amaranthus caudatus 'Dreadlocks' Beauty, drama and quirkiness. Long maroon "locks" drape down 2 to 3 feet on this new version of old-fashioned love-lies-bleeding.

[68] Solanum quitoense A wicked-looking member of the nightshade family called bed of nails, so frightening it's irresistible. Huge leaves with purple veins sport purple thorns above and below. Surprising and edible orange fruits taste of pineapple and lemon.

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HOT BOX

glint of gold

Silver has been an indispensable foliage color for years and now gold is fast catching up in popularity. Shining like a beam of sunshine amidst darker-leaved plants, golden foliage brings color to the garden even without blooms. And it serves as a brilliant foil for both pastel and hot-hued flowers, and other foliage colors like blue and burgundy.



[74] *Parrotia persica* Persian ironwood is a much-underused tree closely related to witch hazel, with crimson flowers in late winter, beechlike leaves and patchwork bark. Dramatic forms include the weeping 'Pendula' and columnar 'Vanessa'. 'Select' has purple leaf margins; 'Persian Lace' is variegated with creamy green.

[75] *Prunus cerasifera* 'Crimson Point' The first columnar, purple-leaf plum on the market—the perfect plant to bring height and color to a small-space garden. Emerging bronze and turning to dark burgundy, the foliage creates a dramatic backdrop for the white spring flowers. A Monrovia introduction.



[76] *Rhamnus* 'Fine Line' A columnar buckthorn with delicate ferny leaves. At only 6 feet tall and 2 feet wide, this tough, versatile small tree has many uses—narrow hedge, accent plant, container specimen. Or use two of them to frame an entry. Non-invasive, unlike others in the genus, producing few (and sterile) seeds. Hardy in Zones 3 to 7.

[77] *Taxodium distichum* 'Cascade Falls' This graceful weeping bald cypress creates a waterfall of delicate needle foliage, bright green in spring changing to peachy orange in fall. Train onto a stake to the desired height and let it drape to the ground. A showpiece at the water's edge, though it doesn't require a wet location to thrive.

[69] *Carex siderosticha* 'Lemon Zest' is a slowly spreading, wide-leaved sedge that holds its bright color all summer. 'Banana Boat' (shown) is yellow with thin green edges.

[70] *Dicentra spectabilis* 'Gold Heart' A spectacular combination of colors—gold foliage on 3-foot arching stems and rows of pendant hot pink flowers.

[71] *Hydrangea* *H. macrophylla* 'Lemon Daddy' from Novalis has golden to chartreuse leaves that

are beautiful all season. *H. quercifolia* 'Little Honey' is a gold-leaved, shorter version of oak-leaf hydrangea.

[72] *Acanthus mollis* 'Hollard's Gold' A handsome form of bear's breeches, with glossy new foliage burnished gold. Architectural spikes of white flowers hooded by purple bracts are an attractive bonus.

[73] *Spiraea* 'Golden Sunrise'™ Bright yellow foliage matures to yellow-green in summer, coppery gold in fall. Frothy pink flowers.

TROPICALS

[78] *Anthurium* 'Anouk' As close to purple as an anthurium can be. The purplish pink spathe backs a violet spadix. Dark green leaves have a tidy, clumping habit.

[79] *Anigozanthos* 'Kanga'™ 'Red-Green' One of the latest additions to the Kanga™ series of kangaroo paws from Bodger Botanicals. Unusual tubular pine-green flowers top bright red, architectural stems, 1 to 2 feet tall, over green straplike foliage.

[80] *Begonia* 'Cathedral' Like a Tiffany glass creation, ruffled, cupped foliage of maroon and green is punctuated with lighter green translucent "windows." Spectacular in a hanging basket to better see the play of light through the leaves. Ivory-pink flowers are held well above the foliage.

[81] *Callisia elegans* Called striped inch plant, this Mexico native has neat silvery-tan stripes on slate-green leaves, purple undersides and fat, mat-forming stems.

[82] *Dioscorea discolor* An elegant tropical vine from South America, with leaves like a stained-glass window—deep green marbled with silver and violet-purple undersides. Winter brings a dormant period for the underground tuber of this ornamental yam, which will resprout in spring.

[83] *Microsorium punctatum* 'Green Flame' From Oglesby comes this handsome fern with broad, upright leaves, crested and toothed at the tips like tongues of flame.



[84] *Musa 'Little Prince'* A banana tree as a bonsai? Why not, with this cute little dwarf banana that maxes out at 1½ to 2 feet tall. Can be kept in a container indefinitely. Green leaves are flecked with red. (No, it doesn't produce teeny-tiny bananas.)

[85] *Nephrolepis exaltata Rita's Gold* A gold to chartreuse Boston fern that holds its vivid color. From Randolph's Greenhouses near Jackson, Tennessee. Brings a bright, frilly addition to mixed containers in the shade.

[86] *Oxalis 'Silver & Gold'* Small compact houseplant with lush silver and green foliage. A flush of dainty yellow flowers appears magically every two to three weeks. Can be used as a groundcover outside in Zone 9 and warmer. Non-invasive—really.

[87] *Strelitzia juncea* Unlike the familiar bird-of-paradise (*S. reginae*), this uncommon species from South Africa has reedlike leaves 4 to 6 feet tall. Dramatic orange and purple flowers look like bird heads with fancy crests. Hardy to about 20 degrees F.

[88] *Syngonium* Barbie would love these plants. 'Neon Robusta' is the latest improvement on the pink-leaved 'Neon'. 'Confetti' is speckled and splotched in a lively mix of pink, green and cream. From Agristarts.

[89] *Tibouchina grandifolia* Large downy leaves have a silvery shimmer on this tall princess flower. Foot-long sprays of bright purple blooms appear from summer to fall. Use as an annual in colder zones for a tropical look in the border or a large container.

BULBS, ETC.

[90] *Arisaema triphyllum 'Black Jack'* Everyone loves the native jack-in-the-pulpit with its quirky hooded flower. This dramatic new cultivar has black foliage with green veins and a black spathe striped with white.

[91] *Colocasia esculenta 'Coffee Cups'* Large black-tinted, olive-green leaves, 4 to 5 feet tall, with purple stems and veins, are upright and cupped, collecting rainwater until they're full, then spilling the water and refilling, like a Japanese deer chaser.

[92] *Iris 'Sea Power'* From über iris hybridizer Keith Keppel comes the 2006 winner of the Dykes Memorial Medal. A tall bearded with cornflower blue petals, ultra frilly and fragrant.

[93] *Lilium* Speckled Asiatic hybrids are hot in the lily world, with a dash of darker color in the center like sprinkles on ice cream. 'Dot Com' is pink with maroon markings; 'Pup Art' is red with darker speckles; 'Sun-crest' is creamy yellow with maroon; 'Kentucky' is cantaloupe orange with burgundy.

[94] *Lilium nepalense* A stunning lily species. Recurved petals are soft chartreuse with a large wine-red center. Sweetly scented.

[95] *Muscari armeniacum 'Valerie Finnis'* Dainty, powder-blue grape hyacinth, with flower clusters 6 to 8 inches tall, that adds a soft, sweet note to the spring garden.

[96] *Narcissus 'Ambergate'* Large daffodil with unusual amber coloring, the red cup melding into bronzy orange petals.

[97] *Nectaroscordum siculum* Uncommon allium relative called honey lily. Plum-tinged, greenish white florets dangle from 2- to 3-foot stalks. Their height makes them a perfect spring companion for low, mounding plants like geraniums and heucheras.

[98] *Tulipa 'Gavota'* Elegant combination of deep brownish maroon and soft yellow.

[99] *Tulipa 'Zurel'* Reminiscent of bulbs that inspired Tulipmania, with dramatic merlot-purple flames against a white background. One of the newest Triumph tulips, with a classic shape and sturdy stem. A modern version of Rembrandt tulips, though the coloring is genetic rather than viral.

[100] *Zephyranthes 'Krakatau'* A mass of 2-inch-wide, reddish orange, trumpet-shaped flowers begins blooming in July. Multiplies to form a thick clump by season's end. Hardy in Zones 7b to 10. A new rain lily introduction brought to us by Plant Delights.



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A grape hyacinth of the palest blue, speckled Asiatic lilies, a bronze daffodil, hot-purple tropical flowers fit for a princess, a banana tree small enough for bonsai

