



The American GARDENER[®]

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the Geography of Gardening

New Plants for 2012

Alluring Jasmines

Garden Edging

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To locate plants adaptable to different areas of North America, plant hunters target "sister regions"—parts of the world with similar climates and soils.

ON THE COVER: Although native to Japan, flowering cherries such as *Prunus Xyedoensis* thrive in the eastern United States.
Photograph by Susan A. Roth

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Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'.

New for 2012

BY MARY YEE

EACH NEW YEAR brings a wealth of new choices for gardeners. Which of the “new and improved” offerings are worth trying? The colorful photos in the seed and plant catalogs are always enticing, as are the promises made in their descriptions, but you just don’t know if they will live up to the hype.

Seed and plant companies regularly supply samples to horticulturists, garden writers, and designers to test out before the plants hit the mainstream marketplace, so we asked a number of gardening professionals across the country for their feedback on the plants that fared best in their gardens. Among the experts we tapped for their suggestions are: **Rita Pelczar**, contributing editor for *The American Gardener*, who gardens in the mountains of North Carolina; **Jeff Cox**, author and garden designer in Kenwood, California; **Pat Munts**, a garden writer in Spokane, Washington; **Scott Calhoun**, a garden designer in Tucson, Arizona; **Kelly D. Norris**, a horticulturist and plant breeder in Des Moines, Iowa; **Jimmy Turner**, senior director of gardens at Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden in Texas; and **Jane Berger**, a landscape designer in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. We’ve included some of their recommendations here, together with other plants that piqued our interest because they featured notable attributes such as unusual color, disease resistance, compact growth, or high fruit yield.

Among the ornamental plants that got enthusiastic reviews from our experts is floriferous ‘Moxie’ blanket flower (see below, left), Brakelights® red yucca (page 15), and Supertunia® White Russian petunia (page 16). Fruit growers might want to check out ‘San Andreas’ strawberry (page 17). And if you’re looking for a tree or shrub that won’t take up a lot of garden space, consider ‘North Pole’ arborvitae and Snow Day™ pearlbrush (page 18).

With all the new choices that will be emerging on the market this spring, you’re sure to find one that will become a favorite in your garden.

Mary Yee is managing editor and art director of *The American Gardener*.

PERENNIALS



Gaillardia x grandiflora Commotion® ‘Moxie’ features fluted flower petals and grows two feet high and wide in full sun. Like other blanket flowers, native to the American west, this hybrid is drought tolerant. “A real charmer,” is how Rita Pelczar describes it. “Its sunshine-yellow flowers with bright orange centers look great against its deep green leaves,” says Pelczar. “And they appeared continuously from midsummer well into fall.” Pat Munts, who grew ‘Moxie’ in containers on a deck, had a similar experience. “We had a cool, wet spring and early summer,” she says. “The plants thrived, blooming from early July until frost in late October.” Kelly D. Norris calls it, “Possibly the most exciting *Gaillardia* since ‘Fanfare.’” USDA Hardiness Zones 3–9, AHS Heat Zones 10–1. Skagit Gardens.



xHeucherella ‘Sunrise Falls’ is a trailing plant with large, deeply cut, yellow leaves with red veining. Stems can grow to three feet and clusters of small white flowers bloom on spikes in late spring or summer. Tolerates heat and humidity. “I’m in love with these cascading heucherellas,” says Kelly D. Norris. “In a moist, shady spot, ‘Sunrise Falls’ glows like a flash of light.” Zones 4–9, 9–4. Terra Nova Nurseries.



BLOOMS OF BRESSINGHAM

Add summer color to the fall garden with **Anemone hupehensis 'Pretty Lady Diana'**, the latest in the Pretty Lady Series of compact Japanese windflowers from Blooms of Bressingham. Single, dark pink, two-inch-wide flowers bloom on 16-inch-tall plants. Zones 5–7, 7–5.



JELITTO

Most lewisias are pink- or white-flowered. **'Little Mango' (Lewisia longipetala)** from Jelitto is bright orange-yellow. "It's one of the most talked-about plants in my garden," says Jeff Cox. Growing six inches tall, this California native flowers in spring and in fall above a rosette of lance-shaped foliage. Needs well-drained soil. Zones 4–8, 8–1.



WWW.GREATGARDENPLANTS.COM

Growing just six inches tall with a spread of 18 inches, **'Lime Zinger' sedum** is new in the SUNSPARKLER™ line of groundcover sedums from Great Garden Plants. Its half-inch green leaves are delicately edged in red. Pink flowers bloom in fall. Zones 4–9, 9–4.



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Brakelights® red yucca (Hesperaloe parviflora 'Perpa') was bred by Ron Gass of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery. This Southwest native succulent grows two feet tall and wide with clumps of grasslike foliage. Scott Calhoun says, "An instant accent classic, this plant boasts ruby-red flowers and a useful dwarf size. Expect to see millions of these planted throughout the Southwest." Zones 6–11, 12–6. High Country Gardens and Monrovia.



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Fire Spinner™ ice plant (Delosperma 'P001S') is a succulent groundcover growing two to three inches high. Multi-colored flowers open in spring. "A dynamite new plant and perhaps one of the best of the year," says Kelly D. Norris. "Head-turning and gaudy in the best way possible!" Zones 5–9, 9–1. Plant Select.



JELITTO

'Las Vegas' fig leaf hollyhock (Alcea ficifolia) features saucer-shaped single flowers that bloom in assorted colors, contrasting nicely with the lobed green foliage. Grows about five feet tall. Zones 3–9, 9–1. Jelitto.

Additional new perennials:

- **Gaillardia × grandiflora Arizona Apricot** is a 2011 AAS winner. "It has proved heat hardy in the Tucson sun, and the flowers are a rich yellow with an orange eye—an arresting and unusual color combination," Scott Calhoun says. Plants grow 12 inches tall and wide. Zones 3–9, 10–1. Benary.
- **Heuchera 'Delta Dawn'** has yellow-green leaves with red veining in the centers. Mounding plants grow eight inches tall and 12 inches wide, bearing white flowers in midsummer. Tolerates heat and humidity. Zones 4–9, 9–1. Terra Nova Nurseries.
- **Coreopsis verticillata 'Sweet Marmalade'** has flowers that open bright orange and mature to a creamy orange-yellow. Grows 12 inches tall. Zones 4–9, 9–1. Blooms of Bressingham.

ROSES



WEEKS ROSES

Weeks Roses is introducing **Koko Loco™** ('WEKbijou'), a floricunda rose with mildly fragrant, milk-chocolate-lavender-colored flowers that are up to four-and-a-half inches in diameter. Medium-size shrubs have a rounded, bushy habit. Zones 6-9, 9-6.



DAVID AUSTIN ROSES

Princess Anne ('Auskitchen') rose is a compact, disease-resistant shrub that grows to three feet tall and two feet wide. The double flowers, which have a medium tea rose fragrance, mature from cerise-pink to purplish pink. Zones 5-9, 9-5. David Austin Roses.



BAILEY NURSERIES

Champagne Wishes ('BALcham') from Bailey Nurseries' Easy Elegance® collection features apricot-colored flower buds that open into ivory blooms with apricot tones. Disease-resistant plants grow about three feet tall and four feet wide. Zones 4-7, 8-4.



SOUTHERN LIVING PLANT COLLECTION

All A-Flutter™ ('Radsouth') shrub rose bears fuchsia-pink, semi-double flowers from spring to fall. A moderately fast grower to about three feet tall and wide. Disease resistant. Zones 5-11, 11-5. Southern Living Plant Collection.

Additional new roses:

- **Skylark** ('Ausimple') produces semi-double, lilac-pink flowers and grows three feet tall and two feet wide. Zones 5-9, 9-5. David Austin Roses.
- **Music Box** ('BALbox') features everblooming yellow-and-pink flowers and grows three to four feet tall and wide. Zones 4-9, 9-4. Bailey Nurseries.
- **Stormy Weather™** (ORAfantantov) is a climbing rose growing to six to eight feet with double, deep purple-red flowers with a spicy fragrance. Zones 5-9, 9-5. Weeks Roses.

Wholesale Nurseries/Marketing Consortia

Visit these companies' websites to locate retail sources for their plants.

- Bailey Nurseries**, www.baileynurseries.com.
Ball Horticultural Co., www.ballhort.com.
Benary, www.benary.com.
Blooms of Bressingham, www.bloomsofbressingham.com.
Garden Debut, www.gardendebut.com.
Gardener's Confidence Collection, www.gardenersconfidence.com.
Great Garden Plants, www.greatgardenplants.com.
Monrovia, www.monrovia.com.
Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, www.mswm.com.
Plant Select, <http://plantselect.org>.
Proven Winners, www.provenwinners.com.
Skagit Gardens, www.skagitgardens.com.
Southern Living Plant Collection, www.southernlivingplants.com.
Terra Nova Nurseries, www.terranovanurseries.com.
Weeks Roses, www.weeksroses.com.

Retail Sources

- David Austin Roses**, Tyler, TX. (800) 328-8893. www.davidaustinroses.com.
High Country Gardens, Santa Fe, NM. (800) 925-9387. www.highcountrygardens.com.
Jelitto Perennial Seeds, Louisville, KY. (502) 895-0807. www.jelitto.com.
Johnny's Selected Seeds, Winslow, ME. (877) 564-6697. www.johnnyseeds.com.
Thompson & Morgan, Jackson, NJ. (800) 274-7333. www.tmseeds.com.
W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Warminster, PA. (800) 333-5808. www.burpee.com.