

WHAT'S NEXT IN ECO GARDENING: USING LESS LIGHT

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024
hortmag.com

Horticulture

The Art & Science of Smart Gardening

PLUS:
TOUR THIS
GARDEN'S
THOUGHTFUL
PATHS

**A GRAVEL
GARDENER'S
LOW-WATER
FAVORITES**

**SHRUB PROPAGATION
MADE EASY**

**NIKI JABBOUR'S
QUICK FALL CROPS**

**THE IRRESISTIBLE
SNOWDROP**



NEW PLANTS

Multiseason Marvels

BY MEGHAN SHINN

Above: Just Chill Red Tip camellia opens its pink flowers in autumn, against its own colorful backdrop of evergreen leaves.

EACH YEAR plant brands release exciting new cultivars to the market, the results of years of breeding, selecting, trialing and propagating. New plants are bred to enhance traits that make them stand out against comparable cultivars—and in your garden. On these pages we'll take a look at recently introduced options with more than one season of interest.

Note: Although all these plants will be sold at retail in 2024, their availability may be limited because they are new. Keep an eye out for them reaching your area in the future if you can't find them yet.

JUST CHILL RED TIP CAMELLIA

CAMELLIA 'FARROWCJRF'

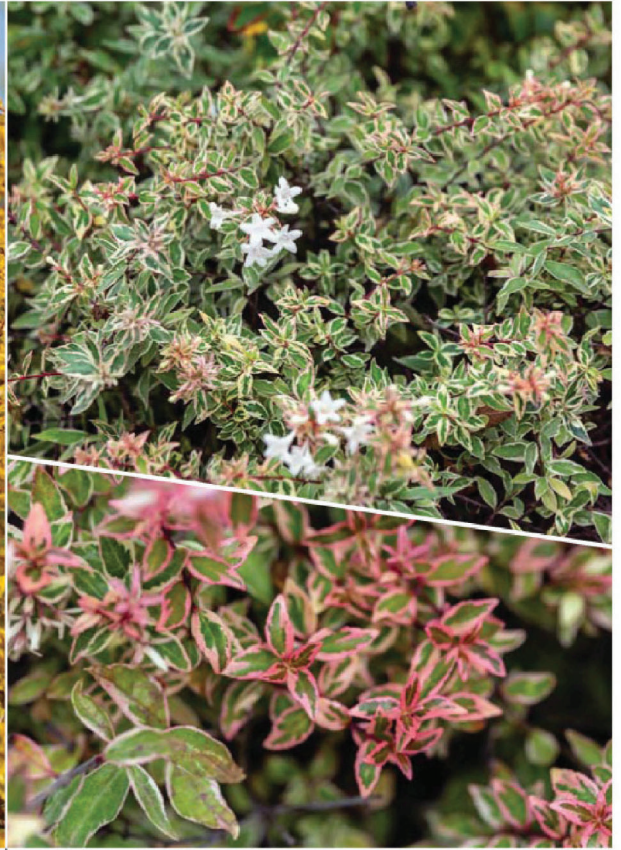
Just Chill Red Tip is a fall-blooming camellia that remains interesting when it's out of bloom thanks to its glossy evergreen foliage. New leaves unfold dark red with a bright green midrib then mature to deep green. From autumn into winter, pale pink flowers open with a single row of petals surrounding bright gold stamens.

Exposure: Full to part sun

Seasons of interest: Year-round for foliage; fall for flowers

Size and habit: This is an upright shrub reaching five to eight feet tall and five to six feet wide.

Growing notes: Just Chill Red Tip requires conditions typical for a fall camellia: full to part sun and moist but well-drained acidic soil. Because its flowers are produced on new growth, any pruning should take place in early spring. USDA Zones 6b–9.



FIRST EDITIONS HONEYCOMB NINEBARK

PHYSOCARPUS OPULIFOLIUS 'ZLENORA'

Honeycomb ninebark makes a statement with large, vibrant chartreuse leaves that hold their color all season long, even in full sun. They make a bright backdrop to the pollinator-friendly white flowers that appear in spring. In autumn, the foliage darkens to a nice gold color. The arching stems and exfoliating bark maintains ninebark's appeal through winter.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Seasons of interest: Spring through fall for foliage; spring for flowers; winter for bark and architecture

Size and habit: This ninebark stands four to six feet tall and five to seven feet wide, with a vase-like habit.

Growing notes: Plant Honeycomb in full sun to part shade and poor to moderately fertile soil. After establishing, ninebarks tolerate dry spells, although they also grow well in moist soil and can take brief periods of inundation. Zones 3–7.

FIRST EDITIONS VANILLA BRANDY ABELIA

ABELIA x GRANDIFOLIA 'BALIBELIAONE'

First introduced in 2022 but now made available to a wider market, Vanilla Brandy abelia produces delightfully variegated foliage. Through much of the growing season, the leaves are green with a white margin. The white edge progresses through shades of pink in autumn. Lightly fragrant tubular flowers begin in late spring and can reappear into the fall.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Seasons of interest: Spring to fall for flowers; year-round for foliage

Size and habit: A low mounding shrub, Vanilla Brandy abelia reaches two to three feet tall and wide.

Growing notes: Plant this hybrid abelia in full sun to part shade and well-drained, neutral to acidic soil. Once established it can tolerate short stints of drought, but it prefers regular water. Naturally compact, Vanilla Brandy can be shaped in early spring if desired. Zones 6–9.

Courtesy of Bailey Nurseries



'PLATINUM BEAUTY' LOMANDRA

LOMANDRA LONGIFOLIA 'ROMA 13'

Lomandra resembles an ornamental grass, but it is really an evergreen perennial that maintains its graceful shape and color all year long. The cultivar Platinum Beauty bears fine-textured foliage that looks mint green from a distance. A closer look reveals thin white and green stripes lining each leaf. (An older release in some regions of the United States, this plant is now being distributed more widely.)

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Seasons of interest: Year-round for foliage

Size and habit: This is a fountain-shaped evergreen perennial reaching two to three feet tall and wide.

Growing notes: Site in full sun or part shade and poor to average soil that drains well. Once established, this plant is very tolerant of drought. Where it isn't hardy, it can be grown in a large container and wintered in a cool interior space. Zones 8–10.



'CHANGELING' CORAL BELLS

HEUCHERA 'CHANGELING'

The aptly named 'Changeling' provides not just colorful foliage throughout the growing season, but color-changing foliage to boot. New leaves appear in soft but lively shades of peach and red, next fade to warm tan and finally darken to foresty greens. As the foliage continues to develop, it creates a patchwork-quilt effect. Dark veining enhances the appeal, and in late spring wands of white flowers hover above the leaves.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Seasons of interest: Spring for flowers; spring through fall for foliage (and evergreen in warmer zones)

Size and habit: This heuchera creates a mound of leaves nine inches tall and fourteen inches wide.

Growing notes: Coral bells take full sun or part shade, with the former situation being more suitable in the North. Provide some protection from afternoon sun in the South. Average to rich soil with good drainage is best, as is regular water, although wet conditions should be avoided. Once established, heucheras can persist through brief drought. Zones 4–9.



'FUSION OF FIRE' OREDENIA

OREDENIA 'FUSION OF FIRE'

'Fusion of Fire' is a unique hybrid borne of species in two genera, *Mukdenia* and *Oresitrophe*. *Mukdenia* is perhaps better known in the garden; resembling coral bells (*Heuchera*) and hardy geranium, it is grown for its incredibly vibrant fall foliage color. That's the trait it provided 'Fusion of Fire', which turns fire-engine red in autumn. *Oresitrophe*, meanwhile, contributed a larger leaf size (to 12 inches) and showier spring flowers.

Exposure: Part to full shade

Seasons of interest: Spring for flowers; summer and fall for foliage

Size and habit: This perennial grows as a mound of foliage to about a foot tall and twice as wide.

Growing notes: For the best growth, plant 'Fusion of Fire' oredenia in a spot that receives morning sun and afternoon shade or all-day dappled shade. It requires even moisture and well-drained soil rich in organic matter, making it a natural companion to many woodland-garden favorites. Zones 3–9.



VINTAGE BOUQUET PIGSQUEAK

BERGENIA VINTAGE 'BOUQUET'

With its smaller leaves, this pigsqueak is suited to mixed containers, especially those created as a cool-season accent. The sturdy, glossy foliage appears deep green much of the year but puts on dark red color in colder weather, especially toward the margin. Drumsticks of large pink flowers occur in earliest spring.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade

Seasons of interest: Early spring for flowers; year-round for foliage

Size and habit: This perennial grows as a nine-inch-tall, one-foot-wide clump.

Growing notes: Like other bergenia, Vintage 'Bouquet' needs good drainage but adapts to full sun or part shade and it is mostly worry free. The foliage will weather best in warmer zones; in colder regions, it may be necessary to trim away winter-damaged leaves as new growth begins. Moderate water keeps bergenia growing well, but it can tolerate drought once established. Zones 4–9. ❧