

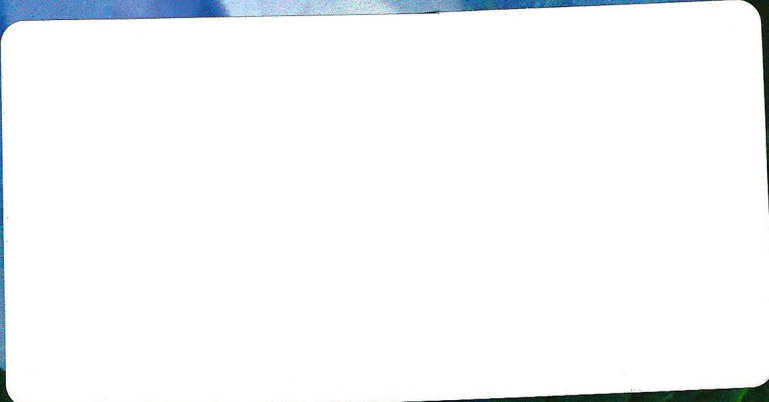
TAUNTON'S

# fine Gardening

Peel cover to reveal our great summer issue! ▶▶▶▶▶

The best  
**NEW  
PLANTS**  
= *for* =  
**2019**

Our editors'  
must-haves  
for this year's  
garden







This heuchera's hue doesn't fade

**'Wildberry' heuchera**  
(*Heuchera* 'Wildberry')

**ZONES:** 4-9

**SIZE:** 10 to 14 inches tall and 16 to 20 inches wide

**CONDITIONS:** Full sun to partial shade; moist, well-drained soil

**NATIVE RANGE:** North America

For years the downfall of new heucheras was their questionable winter hardiness. Plant breeders finally got a handle on that, but it seemed to be at the expense of plants holding their brilliant foliage colors. 'Wildberry' supposedly holds its deep purple hue throughout the season (even in full sun), and this color won't fade as the season progresses, either.

INTRODUCED BY *Proven Winners®* and  
*Walter's Gardens*



Silvery goodness to lighten the shade

**Alchemy™ Silver brunnera**  
(*Brunnera macrophylla* 'TNBRUAS')

**ZONES:** 4-9

**SIZE:** 14 to 18 inches tall and wide

**CONDITIONS:** Partial to full shade; moist, well-drained soil

**NATIVE RANGE:** Turkey

This brunnera is touted as being bulkier than other offerings out there. The plant crown fills in quickly instead of limping along for years. Also, the bright silver color holds up well in the North and also in the heat and humidity of the South.

INTRODUCED BY *Terra Nova® Nurseries*



**Don't adjust your glasses;  
it is a blue hibiscus**

**Cordon Bleu hibiscus**  
(*Hibiscus moscheutos* '4389')

**ZONES:** 5–9

**SIZE:** 3 feet tall and wide

**CONDITIONS:** Full sun; moist, well-drained soil

**NATIVE RANGE:** Southern and eastern North America

Blue is an elusive color in the garden, and while this hibiscus bloom isn't "sky blue," it does sport a lilac-blue hue. It will stop and make you pause, that's for sure. The plant is also said to be bushier and more rust resistant than other hibiscus. If you're in the market this year for bodacious blooms, this may well be your plant.

INTRODUCED BY J. Berry Nursery



**Another underused perennial with a new look**

**Pretticoats™ Peach geum** (*Geum* 'TNGEUPP')

**ZONES:** 5–9

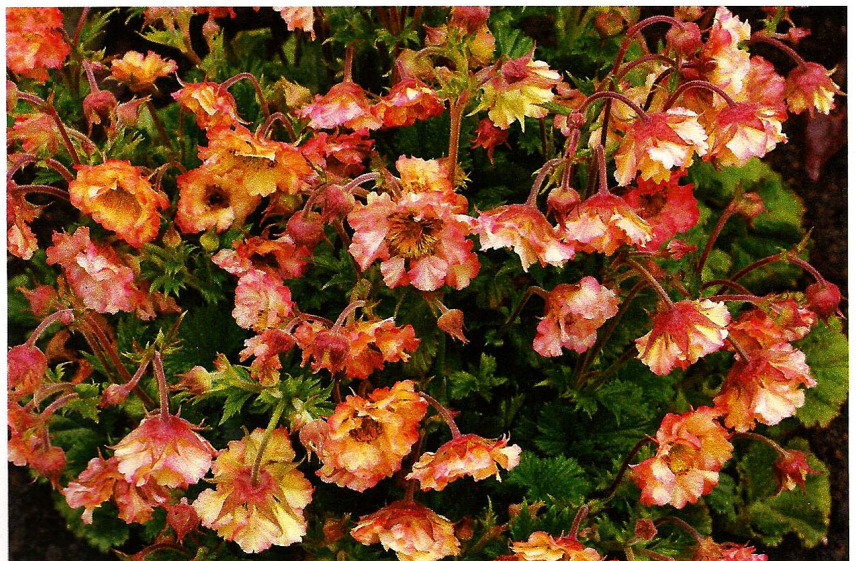
**SIZE:** 10 inches tall and 20 inches wide

**CONDITIONS:** Full sun; moist, well-drained soil

**NATIVE RANGE:** Northern North America

For years we've been singing the praises of geum as a tough little perennial with minimal care needs. Pretticoats™ Peach just makes us even more in love with the genus due to the incredible amount of blooms it has. Starting in late spring and continuing into fall, they feature a combination of pink, yellow, and light orange. The habit of this variety is a bit denser, too, making it perfect for tucking in among other front-of-the-bed companions.

INTRODUCED BY Terra Nova® Nurseries



Danielle Sherry is the senior editor.





# midwest

## 1. MARTAGON LILY

*Lilium martagon*

**ZONES:** 3–9

**SIZE:** 3 to 6 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide

**CONDITIONS:** Partial sun to partial shade; evenly moist, well-drained soil

**NATIVE RANGE:** Europe and Asia

This shade-tolerant species is not commonly found in garden centers and can be relatively pricey compared to its sun-loving cousins. The investment may be high to start, but this is an easy grower that multiplies. Tall stems hold numerous downward-facing Turk's cap flowers with intensely recurved tepals. I have counted over 50 flowers per stem. Blooms may be yellow, pink, lavender, orange, gold, red, purple, or white, and most have freckles. Morning sun increases flowering.

## 2. 'DOUBLE STUFF' SOLOMON'S SEAL

*Polygonatum odoratum* 'Double Stuff'

**ZONES:** 3–8

**SIZE:** 2 to 3 feet tall and 1 to 2 feet wide

**CONDITIONS:** Partial to full shade; tolerates drought, wet soil, and nutrient-lean soil

**NATIVE RANGE:** Temperate regions of Europe and Asia

Recently there has been an explosion of new Solomon's seal cultivars that are variegated in gold or white. Mail order is your best option for finding these, and 'Double Stuff' is perhaps the easiest one to find. Its foliage pops in the shade; this plant does not need flowers to be stunning. Use it to light up dark areas. It will not tolerate as much sun as variegated Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum', Zones 3–8), but it is ideal for deeper shade. In autumn its foliage dries to wheat-tan and looks lovely until snow takes it down.

## 3. JAPANESE WOODLAND PEONY

*Paeonia obovata*

**ZONES:** 5–8

**SIZE:** 1 to 2 feet tall and wide

**CONDITIONS:** Partial to light shade; evenly moist, well-drained soil with some organic matter

**NATIVE RANGE:** Temperate regions of Asia

Woodland peonies do not have the robust, shrub-size form and opulent flowers of their sun-loving cousins, but they have long been prized by collectors. The single white or rose-pink flowers are charming but not overly showy; the jaw-dropping display arrives in autumn when the seed heads split open and—oo-la-la—captivation! Luscious seeds glisten like shiny black pearls and are nestled among brilliant red nonfertile seeds in open, star-shape pods. Shade gardeners, you need this peony.

## 4. GREAT MASTERWORT

*Astrantia major*

**ZONES:** 4–7

**SIZE:** 18 to 24 inches tall and 12 to 18 inches wide

**CONDITIONS:** Partial shade; evenly moist, compost-rich, well-drained soil

**NATIVE RANGE:** Europe and western Asia

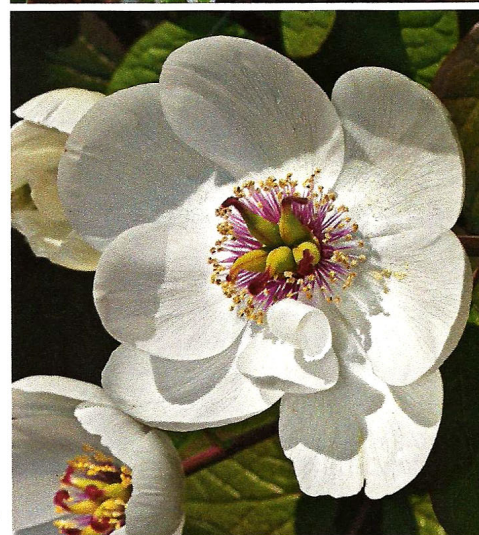
I see this plant often in public gardens but rarely in private ones. It will disappoint if it is planted in nutrient-poor soils and hot sun, but proper placement will be rewarded with abundance. Happy clumps form colonies, so start with a few plants and add more when successful. Great masterwort has a long blooming season and makes an excellent cut flower, with distinctive umbels of starchy, everlasting, lightly scented flowers in white, pink, green, or ruby red, surrounded by green bracts.



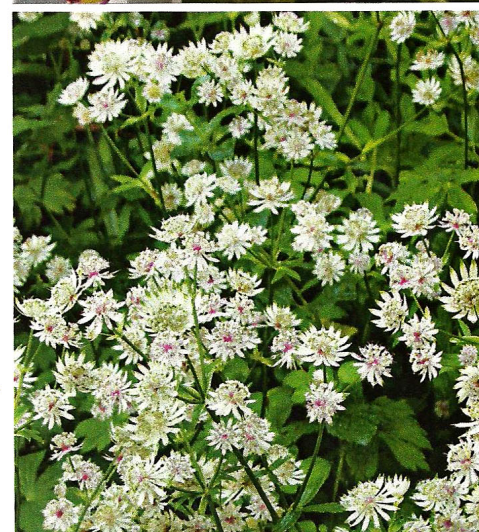
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Ed Lyon is the director of Reiman Gardens at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and the author of *Growing the Midwest Garden*.