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MARCH/APRIL 2008

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HOT PLANTS OF 2008

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HOT NEW PLANTS FOR 2008

Refresh your garden with these irresistible newcomers!

when spring comes 'round

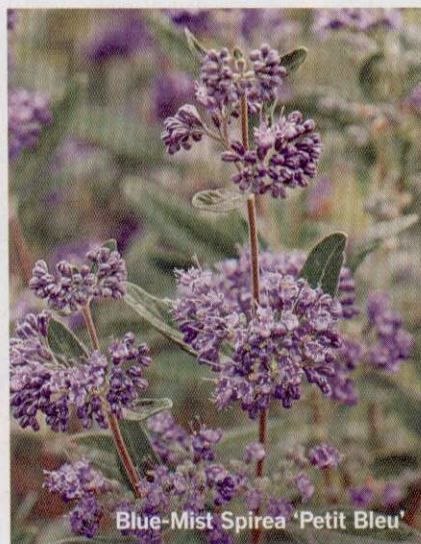
and warmer temps invite us outside, we're as ready for a fresh start as our yards are. Emerging plants like flowering shrubs and returning perennials remind us that the growing season is here.

Capitalize on the mood of renewal! Clear away the mulch, clip off last year's spent stems and make way for fresh growth. Then, treat yourself to some new plants—whether from the offerings at your local garden center or exciting introductions from your favorite mail-order nurseries and seed houses.

To help you pick through all the new plants clamoring for your attention this spring, we've surveyed the crowd and selected some that look especially unique or top-quality. Details follow, along with some "pretty pairings" for each, making it even easier for you to boost your garden's beauty in 2008.



Floribunda Rose
'Mardi Gras'



Blue-Mist Spirea 'Petit Bleu'

Size: 12 to 14 inches high; 8 inches wide.
Hardiness: Annual.
Growing tip: Full sun; well-drained soil; regular, consistent watering.
Pretty pairings: Looks terrific with other sun-loving annuals, including petunias and zinnias.

Viola 'Skippy XL

Plum-Gold' (pictured on p. 27)

All-America Selections Winner for 2008

Botanical name: *Viola cornuta* 'Skippy XL Plum-Gold'

What's new: Blooms prolifically.

Size: 6 inches high; 8 inches wide.

Hardiness: Cool-season annual.

Growing tip: Prospers in fertile, moist, well-drained soil.

Pretty pairings: Other small-flowering violas make charming partners; try yellow- or orange-hued ones.

Cranesbill Geranium

'Rozanne' (pictured on p. 27)

2008 Perennial Plant of the Year

Botanical name: *Geranium himalayense* x *G. wallichianum* 'Buxton's Variety'

What's new: Truly blooms all summer long.

Size: 18 to 24 inches high; 24 to 28 inches wide.



Alum Root 'Georgia Peach'

Hardiness: Zones 5 to 8.

Growing tip: Full sun is best; can get leggy in less light.

Pretty pairings: Very versatile! Lovely with a white rose like 'Iceberg' or yellow, such as 'Golden Celebration' or 'Graham Thomas.' Enchanting with pink flowers, including pink phlox or coneflower.

Blue-Mist Spirea

'Petit Bleu'

Botanical name: *Caryopteris x clandonensis* 'Minibleu'

What's new: Outstanding, vivid flower color; smaller plant size.

Size: 24 to 30 inches high and wide.

Hardiness: Zones 5 to 9.

Growing tip: A sunny spot with average, well-drained soil suits this plant just fine.

Pretty pairings: Because it blooms in late summer and fall, juxtapose the dark-blue flowers with some of autumn's best yellows, oranges and reds—dahlia, for instance, or perennial aster.

Cape Daisy 'Asti White'

All-America Selections Winner for 2008

Botanical name: *Osteospermum ecklonis* 'Asti White'

What's new: Bright-white blooms; may be grown from seed. Flowers remain open even on overcast days.

Size: 17 to 20 inches high and wide.

Hardiness: Annual.

Growing tip: Thanks to its tidy, compact growth habit, 'Asti White' is a nice choice for pots or window boxes in any sunny spot.

Pretty pairings: Blue-flowering companions—such as trailing blue lobelia or Felicia daisies—will pick up on the blue centers of these bright-white daisies. Perfect for containers, too!

Flower Carpet Ground Cover Rose

'Pink Supreme'

Botanical name: *Rosa* 'Pink Supreme'

What's new: Vivid color, disease resistance and long bloom period—up to 10 months in mild climates!

Size: 24 inches high; 36 inches wide.

Hardiness: Zones 4 to 10.

Growing tip: Fertile soil and consistent watering lead to the best blooms.

Pretty pairings: Gorgeous at the base of taller shrubs, including other roses. Lower-growing lavender or veronica will mingle well with 'Pink Supreme.'



Cape Daisy 'Asti White'



Ground Cover Rose 'Pink Supreme'



Stokes' Aster 'Purple Pixie'



Zinnia 'White Wedding'

Zinnia 'White Wedding'

Botanical name: *Zinnia elegans* 'White Wedding'

What's new: High-quality, pure-white flowers; large and plush, they really stand out.

Size: 12 to 16 inches high; 10 inches wide.

Hardiness: Annual.

Growing tip: Grow in full sun in well-drained ground; zinnias do not like to be waterlogged. Plants will be bushier if pinched back a bit in early summer.

Pretty pairings: Is gorgeous with other zinnias, particularly red, orange or bicolor varieties—in the garden or a vase. Or try it with blue- or purple-hued annuals, such as flowering tobacco plant.

Coreopsis 'Full Moon'

Botanical name: *Coreopsis verticillata* 'Full Moon'

What's new: An improved 'Moonbeam,' with canary-yellow color and larger, 3-inch blooms.



Coreopsis 'Full Moon'

Size: 24 to 30 inches high and wide.

Hardiness: Zones 5 to 9.

Growing tip: Full sun and well-drained soil will bring out the best in this eager bloomer.

Pretty pairings: Is lovely in the company of any blue-hued perennial—veronica and lavender, especially.

Stokes' Aster 'Purple Pixie'

(pictured on p. 28)

Botanical name: *Stokesia laevis* 'Purple Pixie'

What's new: First dwarf Stokes' aster!

Size: 12 to 14 inches high; 9 inches wide.

Hardiness: Zones 5 to 9.

Growing tip: Full sun is a must. Avoid fertilizing, which could lead to floppy growth.

Pretty pairings: Lamb's ears or brunnera both make agreeable partners because neither is so big as to overwhelm 'Purple Pixie.' Plus, their foliage forms a handsome backdrop.

Alum Root 'Georgia Peach'

(pictured on p. 28)

Botanical name: *Heuchera villosa* 'Georgia Peach'

What's new: Distinctive, showy foliage color; large leaf size adds to the impact. Tolerates summer humidity.

Size: 24 inches high; 14 inches wide.

Hardiness: Zones 4 to 9.

Growing tip: Fertile, well-drained soil brings out the best in this beauty.

Pretty pairings: Dramatic paired with lungwort. Try 'Raspberry Splash' or 'Mrs. Moon.' *

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