

Cityscapes on Both Coasts: Urban Gardens Rise to the Top

# GARDEN DESIGN

spring  
gardens get  
**gorgeous!**

Expert Advice for Designing  
& Decorating With Plants

**50**  
HOT NEW  
PLANTS TO  
LOVE NOW  
PG 51

**Q&A**  
**TONY**  
**AVENT**  
PG 104  
**DANIEL**  
**RICHARDS**  
PG 24

**+ Outdoor Décor Goes Pop:  
Seating, Fabric, Rugs & More**

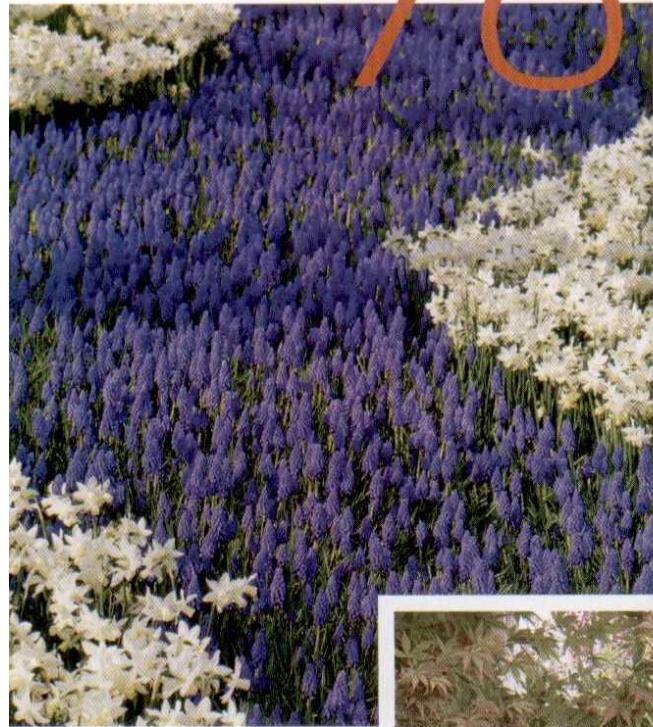
MARCH 2008 \$5.99

03



017547083938





## Features

### 51 The Way Hot Top 50

Whether chosen for their watch-me-now colors or unreal textures, this year's Way Hot selections rock a hot look in gardens from Chicago to Miami, New York to San Francisco. BY JENNY ANDREWS

### 62 The Quiet Revolution

Henk Gerritsen's sublime Dutch garden carves living spaces between reseeding meadows, and casts sculpted hedges against loose plantings. The effect? A show that morphs through the seasons. BY NOEL KINGSBURY

### 70 Social Sanctum

Designer Jon Carloftis marries stunning views and luxe interiors with a Manhattan terrace garden for clients who dine, rest and entertain outdoors. BY TIMOTHY JACK WARD

### 78 Living Rivers

Adrian Bloom brings movement and drama to otherwise static gardens with swaths, drifts and rivers of plants. Here he tells us why and how. BY ADRIAN BLOOM



On the cover: Daniel Richards revved up the temperature when he designed the terrace for the 2007 Kips Bay Decorator Show House using Italian outdoor furniture from Porro against a black, white and green palette. See page 24. Photograph by Steve Freihon.



# TOP

the  
Way  
Hot

# 50

These winners for 2008, gathered from across the country, rock the garden and roll with the punches, looking fabulous and hanging tough. Completing gardens elegantly appointed with fine furnishings, striking ornaments and stylish structures, the plants here orchestrate beautiful landscapes, adding texture, color and form from borders to containers, indoors and out.

BY JENNY ANDREWS

[ For a list of sources for Way Hot plants, see the Sourcebook beginning on page 93 ]





2



7



5

## spice girls

*Sassy flowers and foliage add ba-da-bing to borders and containers — revel in the rich shades of bright, bold, saturated, unabashed color*

- [1] **ACALYPHA SIZZLE SCISSORS™** With ultra-frilly leaves, pink-edged with hints of green, this copperleaf plant from Proven Winners adds a punch of color and texture to a mixed container or bed. Annual.
- [2] **CAPSICUM ANNUUM 'MEDUSA'** Hot plus cool equals a jazzy ornamental pepper that's not pungent, so it's safe to grow around kids. Indoors it makes a wild "hairdo," spring through Christmas, of twisty narrow peppers in ivory, yellow, orange and red. Also look for child-friendly 'Chilly Chili'.
- [3] **GAILLARDIA COMMOTION™ 'FRENZY'** There's nothing low-key about this new blanket flower from Novalis, with high-intensity red and yellow flowers, more numerous than other fluted types. Part of a series introduced by Skagit Gardens, which also includes terra-cotta 'Tizzy'.
- [4] **HEUCHERA 'GEORGIA PEACH'** The first out of the gate for the new heat-and-humidity tolerant Southern Bell Series from Terra Nova, with big, eight-inch strawberry-colored leaves overlaid with silver. The magic ingredient is the Southeastern native *H. villosa* parentage. Zones 4-9.
- [5] **IREFINE 'BLAZIN' LIME'** Building on the fan base established by hot-pink 'Blazin' Rose', 'Blazin' Lime' has lime-green leaves with cream markings and fuchsia stems. From Ball Horticultural Company. Zone 8.
- [6] **KALANCHOE 'MAYON'** Lava hot, this new kalanchoe from Fides in the Netherlands is named for a Philippine volcano. Thick clusters of small flowers are salsa red with white tips. Low-care houseplant or summer annual.
- [7] **OSTEOSPERMUM SUMMERTIME SERIES** From German grower Dümmer comes a cornucopia of fruit-inspired African daisies, with tasty names like Blueberry and Cranberry. Purple and fuchsia petals have an iridescent look, with dark violet-blue centers. Typically used as an annual.
- [8] **RUDBECKIA 'RADIANCE'** A black-eyed Susan amped to the max.



8

Heads of narrow, quilled golden petals look like a cheerleader's pom-pom. Blooms summer through fall, 18 inches tall. Hardy to Zone 5a.

[9] **SALVIA SPLENDENS 'DANCING FLAME'** Gaudy in a good way. As if the brassy gold and green variegated leaves weren't showy enough, they're topped with bright scarlet-red flowers for a double whammy. Lightweights are free to pinch off the flowers and just enjoy the flashy foliage. Perennial in Zone 9 and warmer





## heavy metal

*Gleaming, shimmering, shining — plants with a metallic sheen bring on texture and contrast, and reflect glints of light even in the shadiest of spaces*

[21] **ALOCASIA CUPREA** Shield-shaped, Giger-esque waxy leaves look like burnished metal (the species name comes from the Latin *cuprum*, meaning copper), with deep ridges and dark purple undersides, about a foot long by eight inches wide. Easy houseplant. Hardy in Zones 9-11.

[22] **ATHYRIUM NIPONICUM VAR. PICTUM 'SILVER FALLS'** A Japanese painted fern with shimmering silver fronds and reddish-purple veins whose color only intensifies as the weather heats up, unlike some Japanese painted ferns that "go green" in summer. Hardy in Zones 4-9.

[23] **BEGONIA 'METALLIC MIST'** A breakthrough begonia for hardiness, 'Metallic Mist' from Terra Nova Nurseries is reliable to Zone 8. Ultra-silvery maplelike leaves form a sturdy mound. Pink flowers are a charming bonus.

[24] **COPROSMA 'EVENING GLOW'** Tender shrub (Zones 9-10) from New Zealand with small high-gloss leaves that look varnished. This rainbow version of mirror bush is green and gold in summer, adding orange and pink tones fall through spring. Easily shaped into topiary or bonsai.

[25] **FARFUGIUM JAPONICUM VAR. GIGANTEUM** With leaves as big and shiny as a vinyl record, giant leopard plant makes a bold statement. Yellow daisylike flowers bloom in fall, but the foliage is the main attraction. Hardy in Zones 7-10. Called tractor seat plant in Australia — funny.

[26] **MICROSORUM THAILANDICUM** The peacock-blue iridescence on the thin, dark green leaves makes blue fern a perfect name. An epiphyte from Asia, it easily adapts to a container or terrarium, making a dialogue-starting houseplant. Likes it toasty warm (70-80 degrees) and humid.

[27] **PLECTRANTHUS 'EMERALD LACE'** Softly silver and tough as nine-inch nails, this compact plectranthus makes a no-brainer container plant, indoors or outside during the summer. Dainty white flowers bloom all year.

[28] **PULMONARIA 'SILVER SHIMMERS'** Like a clutch of knife blades, this lungwort forms a mound of narrow leaves, nearly pure silver with a thin green edge. Intense blue flowers in spring are larger than on most pulmonarias. Zones 4-8. Another lungwort with similar star power is 'Samoura

[29] **STROBILANTHES DYERIANUS** Persian shield rocks through heat and humidity, producing bright purple, iridescent leaves with dark purple undersides all summer long. Hardy in Zones 9-10. Also makes a glorious summer annual in colder zones.