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the Best **NEW PLANTS**

for **SUN and SHADE**

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Variegated Plants!

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We grew and took notes on dozens of new plants at our test garden last summer so we could share our experiences with you. Find out which ones we liked best and why on page 18.

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Meet 9 plants that can be the perfect solution to 3 common garden problems.

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Pros from across the country took one front yard from frustrating to fabulous. Discover all of the tips and techniques they used!

ON THE COVER: Superbells® Lemon Slice calibrachoa and Superbena® Royale Silverdust verbena turned a lot of heads as we tested 2013's new plants.
Photo: Jack Coyier

ON THE BACK COVER: Crocuses stand bravely even through an early spring blanket of snow.
Photo: Jack Coyier



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garden gate's top picks

new plants 2013

Gardeners need something to dream about during the dreary winter months. So if you're tired of looking at photos of last year's garden or watching the latest garden improvement show on TV, get a sneak peak here at what's in store for you at your local garden center and favorite mail-order catalogs this spring.

Everybody loves colorful flowers, and we've got plenty of those. In fact, there were so many cool annuals that we didn't have room for all of them here — check our eNotes to see more exciting new plants. And by the way, you'll notice that a lot of "annuals" are technically tender perennials. These are plants that can live outside all year in the zones indicated. If it's colder in your area, you can try bringing them indoors for the winter or you can just let them go. When it comes to perennials, it looked like dark foliage is popular.

I've done my best to share retail sources for all the plants listed. But sometimes, because it takes time to build up supplies of plants, they can be hard to find. If you can't find what you want this year, don't give up. It's sure to be around in bigger numbers next year.

Go ahead, take a look at the new plants for 2013 and decide which ones are your favorites! □

— Sherri Ribbey

***want to see more new plants?** We'll share more favorites in one of our upcoming weekly eNotes. Don't miss them — or any of our weekly tips — visit www.GardenGateNotes.com to sign up today!



Lanai Candy Cane verbena *Verbena* hybrid

Pretty red-and-white-striped flowers top off this heat-loving verbena.

A new addition to the Lanai® series, Candy Cane looked great spilling over the edge of containers in our test garden. Good powdery mildew resistance means the foliage stays fresh and clean through the growing season, too.

To get the most flowers from your verbena, make sure it gets plenty of sun — all day is best. After the first big flush of blooms, the plants will still look good, but be sure to deadhead them. Verbena reblooms better when you remove the spent flowers.



- Type** Tender perennial
- Blooms** White with red stripes
spring to fall
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 6 to 10 in. tall,
20 to 24 in. wide
- Hardiness**
Cold: USDA zones 8 to 11
Heat: AHS zones 12 to 1
- Introducer**
Syngenta®
- Source** Local garden centers
- What's new?**
Pretty new flower
pattern in this series



'Goldfinch' Shasta daisy

Leucanthemum hybrid

If you thought white was your only color choice in Shasta daisies, think again. The cheerful yellow flowers of 'Goldfinch' create a bright spot of color in any sunny border. Long-lasting semi-double blooms start out lemon yellow and fade to ivory. You'll really enjoy watching the butterflies dance around them, adding even more color. Be sure to cut a few stems to bring inside for your vase — 'Goldfinch' makes a great cut flower, too. You can deadhead spent flowers to tidy up plants, but whether you do or not 'Goldfinch' will keep blooming all summer.



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** Yellow flowers in summer
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 19 in. tall, 23 in. wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 5 to 8
Heat: AHS zones 8 to 1
- Introducer** Terra Nova® Nurseries, Inc.
- Source** Casita Azul
www.ilovehostas.net
- What's new?** Lots of semi-double yellow flowers

EverLast White + Eye dianthus

Dianthus hybrid

How would you like a dianthus with a longer bloom time? You can have one with this new series. It tolerates the heat better than other dianthus. Most dianthus bloom in spring and fall — summer heat stops the flowering. But EverLast™ will continue to bloom, just at slower pace.

Look for White + Eye along with other colors in the series: pink, lavender and burgundy. The pretty double flowers are fragrant, too!



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** White with a pink eye
summer to fall
- Light** Full sun
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 8 to 12 in. tall,
10 to 14 in. wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 4 to 9
Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1
- Introducer** Selecta
- Source** Local garden centers
- What's new?** More heat-tolerant than other dianthus



Drumcliff primrose

Primula vulgaris 'K 74'

There are hundreds of primrose varieties available, but here's one that stands out in the crowd. See that dark bronze-green foliage? Besides making the near-white flowers positively glow, it's the darkest foliage you'll find on a primrose. Its relative Innisfree ('K-72') has red flowers and a yellow center along with the same dark leaves. The foliage gets greener as temperatures rise with new growth still coming out that nice bronze-green. As it cools off again in fall, the foliage will darken. And don't worry if your plant disappears in summer. Most primrose go dormant when it's hot and dry. Drumcliff will be back again next spring.



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** White with a yellow center in spring
- Light** Part to full shade
- Soil** Moist, well-drained with plenty of organic matter
- Size** 4 to 6 in. tall, 5 to 7 in. wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 5 to 8
Heat: AHS zones 8 to 1
- Introducer** Skagit Gardens
- Source** Plant Delights
www.plantdelights.com
919-772-4794
- What's new?** Deep bronze foliage

'Paprika' coral bells

Heuchera hybrid

Spice up your garden with this new coral bells — it has the orangest foliage you'll find. Extra-big leaves open rosy orange in spring and change to deeper orange by summer. 'Paprika' tolerates heat and humidity well, even in the South. White flowers arrive in spring in time to give hummingbirds a quick snack.

The leaves are evergreen but winter cold and snow can be hard on them, making them look ratty. In spring, get out a pair of scissors and snip off the old foliage. Be careful not to remove the new growth forming at the crown.



- Type** Perennial
- Blooms** White in spring
- Light** Part to full shade
- Soil** Well-drained
- Size** 8 to 12 in. tall (12 in. in flower), 12 to 16 in. wide
- Hardiness** Cold: USDA zones 4 to 9
Heat: AHS zones 9 to 1
- Introducer** Terra Nova® Nurseries, Inc.
- Source** Local garden centers
- What's new?** Bright orange foliage

PHOTO: Courtesy of www.terravanurseries.com (coral bells)