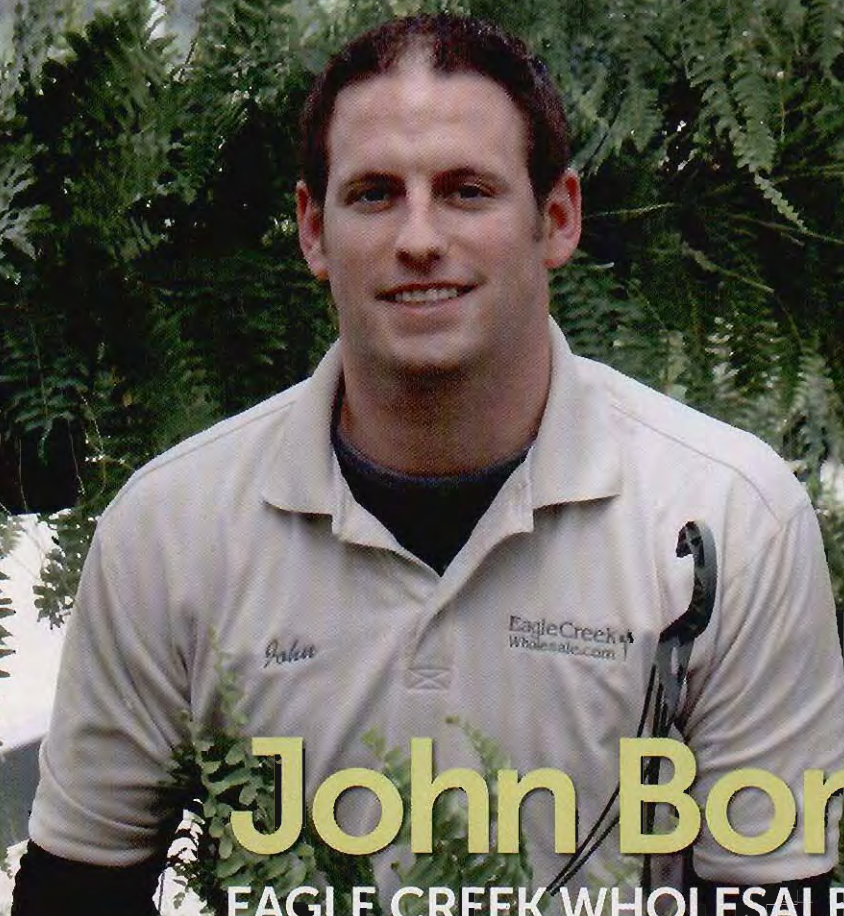


Greenhouse[®]

MANAGEMENT & PRODUCTION



John Bonner

EAGLE CREEK WHOLESALE GROWERS

Cutting risks with alternative fuel and energy

p. 10

Greenhouse[®]

MANAGEMENT & PRODUCTION

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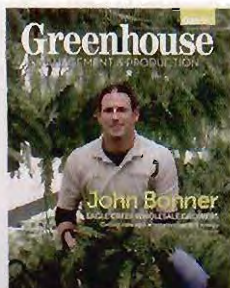
Eagle Creek Wholesale Growers is taking major steps to implement sustainable tools, including a biomass boiler and wind turbines.

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ON THE COVER

John Bonner, general manager of Eagle Creek Wholesale Growers, looks for ways to remove risk from his business, many of which would be considered sustainable. Photo by David Kuack. See page 10.

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By David Kuack

NEW PERENNIAL Varieties

Whether you're a rookie or pro at producing perennials, check out these new plants from breeders around the world.

ACHILLEA

Achillea ptarmica 'Noblessa' from Benary Seed sports bright white, fully double flowers over deep green foliage. It does not require vernalization to flower, reducing crop times and energy costs. Reaching about 12 inches tall, 'Noblessa' provides a dainty appearance in containers or the garden. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-9.

Achillea tomentosa 'Goldie' from Benary is more compact than Aurea and earlier to bloom. At 6-8 inches tall, it offers a compact habit that is perfectly suited for pot production or for ground-cover applications. It creates a dense mat of fern-like foliage. Large, golden flower clusters are held over silver-green foliage. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-8.

AGASTACHE

Agastache pallidiflora 'Rose Mint' from American Takii produces lavender-rose flower spikes from March until first frost. Plants have excellent branching and a fresh minty scent and require little maintenance. It is excellent in containers and in the garden.

Agastache 'Summer Fiesta' from Terra Nova Nurseries produces outstanding dense, spicy orange-red spikes that are weather proof and heat proof. One of the best attributes of this variety is its unfading calyx that clasps the flower. The calyx does not brown like on other agastaches, giving it a much longer lasting spike. This full sun plant has an upright habit reaching 25 inches tall and wide. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 7-10.

AJUGA

Ajuga 'Sparkler' from Terra Nova Nurseries has thick, dark green, shiny foliage covered in creamy-white splashes that light up the floor of a garden. 'Sparkler' has hybrid vigor and produces blue flowers in spring. It reaches 3 inches tall and 10-24 inches wide. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 6-9.

ALCEA

Alcea rosea 'Halo White' from Thompson & Morgan flowers the first year producing large, clear white single flowers with bright yellow centers. The plants, which reach 6½-feet tall, are ideal for planting in borders. 'Halo White' has not been tested, but it should be hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-9 like other varieties offered by the company.

ALCHEMILLA

Alchemilla sericata 'Gold Strike' from Jelitto Perennial Seeds is free-flowering with grey-green, velvety leaves that are more scalloped than *A. mollis*. This mounding plant produces a profuse constellation of tiny chartreuse flowering stars. These blooms can be used as cut flowers and are especially useful as fillers, tucked-in around the base of arrangements. 'Gold Strike' is adaptable as a groundcover or as an accent plant in sun or partial shade, only requiring evenly moist soils. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-8.

ALOE

Rancho Tissue Technologies has released two aloe hybrids.

Aloe 'Christmas Carol' was hybridized by Kelly Griffin and tissue cultured at Rancho Tissue Technologies. This striking selection is the perfect plant for 4- to 6-inch containers. Outdoors in full sun it stays brightly colored year round and tolerates cold and heat. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 8-11.

Aloe 'Sunset' has a light pink tinge to the foliage and red trimmed edges. It

Alcea rosea 'Halo White'



Agastache pallidiflora
'Rose Mint'



Aloe 'Christmas Carol'

delphiniums on the market. The early flowering plants are well-branched reaching 10-12 inches tall. 'Summer Cloud' remains compact and matches the rest of the Summer series. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-7.

DIANTHUS

Dianthus 'Hearts Desire' is available from Blooms of Bressingham. It produces double bubblegum pink with darker pink eye flowers in mid to late spring with slight rebloom in fall. A sport of long-time Blooms of Bressingham favorite 'Rosish One'. Plants have a sturdy, uniform habit making them good for containers with excellent flower canopy. Plants reach 6-8 inches tall in flower by 10 inches wide. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4 to 8. It was developed at the University of Nebraska--Lincoln.



Dianthus 'Hearts Desire'

Dianthus gratianopolitanus 'Flavora

Rose Shades' from Benary produces flowers that are sweetly fragrant in rose colored shades. This 8-inch tall plant is a wonderful addition to rock gardens, mixed containers or in well traveled areas of the landscape. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

Dianthus 'Fusion' from hybridizer Kevin Hurd is available from Walters Gardens. This virus-indexed dianthus presents an ever-changing array of flower color patterns. Spicy scented single, blood red flowers emerge with two deep pink blotches on each petal. As the flowers expand, the blotches fuse and the petals turn coral pink with a serrated red edge. In their final stage, the flowers are coral pink with a red eye. The 10- to 13-inch flower stems are perfect for cutting for fresh bouquets. The plant forms a 5-inch tall and 12-inch wide grassy clump of blue-green foliage. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 5-9.

Scent First dianthus series from PlantHaven is among the best of gar-

den Pinks. Candy Floss produces cotton candy pink, double blossoms with gray green leaves. Passion has velvety deep red, double flowers and smoky green foliage. Tickled Pink has many semi-double, lavender pink flowers on top of its blue gray leaves. Plants are day neutral, perpetual flowering from May to October. Vernalization is not necessary. Plants have a compact mounding habit reaching 5 inches tall and 12 inches wide with 10-inch flower stems. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 6-9.

DYCKIA

Dyckia hybrid 'Burgundy Ice' was created by Kelly Griffin and tissue cultured by Rancho Tissue Technologies. This exotic hybrid is cold hardy and heat tolerant and will maintain its burgundy color year round in full sun. This is the first of many dyckias to come from the company.

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exclusively available from Northwest Horticulture. Flowers open orange and fade to red. It boasts a good flower petal count and produces an abundance of blooms from late June to August. 'Hot Summer' grows 18 inches tall and 12-18 inches wide.

Terra Nova Nurseries has released two new varieties.

Echinacea 'Tangerine Dream' produces elegant, 4-inch, bright orange flowers with wide, overlapping petals. The color lasts much longer than most and has a lovely honey scent. This clumping plant reaches 27 inches tall and 30 inches wide. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

Echinacea 'Gum Drop' is a full-sized plant with strong stems for the middle of the border. This clumping plant reaches 40 inches tall and 36 inches wide. Dark pink, double, feathery pom-poms decorate the center of each flower, surrounded by a broad brim of candy-pink petals. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones

4-9.

Echinacea purpurea 'Lucky Star' from Jelitto produces flowers with beautiful white petals, horizontally arranged around a large cone.

ERIOGONUM

Eriogonum allenii 'Little Rascal' is a durable perennial from Jelitto that was selected for its handsome rosettes of grey-green, paddle-shaped leaves, neat, low-growing habit (16 inches tall) and consistent growth. It can be used in mass landscape plantings or combined in a well-drained border, rock garden or mixed containers. It flowers for nearly three months. Its maturing seed capsules make it an interesting addition to dried arrangements. It is very drought resistant and hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 5-10.

EUPHORBIA

Well-branched and compact *Euphorbia amygdaloides* 'Ruby Glow' from



Euphorbia x martinii 'Ascot Rainbow'

Echinacea purpurea 'Hot Summer'

PlantHaven reaches 10-12 inches tall and up to 20 inches tall when in flower. It has a spread of 18 inches. Its foliage ranges from mahogany in lower light levels to virtually black in full sun. Bright red new growth darkens to almost black in summer with purple overtones. The red stems contrast beautifully with the leaves and bracts. The flowers have 1/2-inch or larger dark red bracts. It benefits from

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HELIANTHUS

Helianthus × *multiflorus* 'Sunshine Daydream' from North Creek Nurseries is a branch sport of *Helianthus* 'Capenoch Star.' This selection has fully double, 2½-inch wide golden-yellow flowers with petals that re-curve toward the stem. Its long, leafless stems lend themselves well to seasonal flower arrangements. Expect continuous flowering from June through August. Plants reach 5-6 feet tall and 2-4 feet wide. It is generally free from powdery mildew. 'Sunshine Daydream' can be used in the middle of a border, foundation plantings, mass plantings, butterfly gardens, cutting gardens and cottage gardens. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-8.

HELIOPSIS

Heliopsis helianthoides Green and White from GroLink has variegated green and white foliage. It is heat and drought tolerant and ideal for 6-inch pots, landscape beds or combination containers. Plants produce small sunflowers just above the foliage during long days.



Helleborus Winter Jewels Painted Doubles

HELLEBORUS

Helleborus Winter Jewels Painted Doubles from Terra Nova Nurseries has a clumping habit reaching 12 inches tall and 24 inches wide. This white double flower hellebore is adorned with red brush marks. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 5-8.

HEMEROCALLIS

Hemerocallis 'Elegant Explosion' is an exclusive introduction from Walters Gardens' hybridizing program. This 20-inch reblooming daylily explodes with sparkling orange-gold color beginning in mid-summer and then again when it reblooms later in the season. The 4-inch, dra-

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matically recurved flowers with heavily ruffled petals are produced atop strong, three-way branched scapes loaded with 22 or more buds apiece.

HEUCHERA

Heuchera 'Malachite' from Kieft-Pro-Seeds is a heavily curled green-leaved counterpart to 'Melting Fire'. It is easy to grow and highly uniform. It reaches 10-16 inches tall and 12 inches wide in the garden. It is excellent for mixed combinations.

Heuchera 'Electra' from Terra Nova Nurseries exhibits shocking, blood-red veins that electrify its golden leaves. The red venation remains while the leaf changes from shades of yellow in spring, to chartreuse in summer and fall and tan in winter. Short, dense cones of white flowers bloom in summer. The mounding plant reaches 7 inches tall and 11 inches wide. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

Syngenta Flowers has added two seed-produced varieties.

Heuchera sanguinea 'Coral Forest' produces dense spikes of clear red flowers early in the season for spring sales. The short flower stems offer a neat appearance in the pot. Plants have excellent uniformity for ease of production.

Heuchera americana 'Marvelous Marble' is all about its green foliage with unique dark veins. It has excellent vigor for great pot and garden performance.

HEUCHERELLA

Heucherella 'Sweet Tea' is the most intensely colored heucherella from Terra Nova Nurseries. Huge cinnamon stars are surrounded by the loveliest orange tea colored borders. It offers big, palmately cut leaves that darken in summer and lighten again in fall. Its villosa breeding gives it a big bold habit and heat and humidity tolerance. This mounding plant grows to 20 inches tall and 28 inches wide. It is hardy

in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

HIBISCUS

Walters Gardens has introduced three hibiscus varieties.

'Cranberry Crush' has a short but full, compact habit and scarlet red flowers. It represents a breakthrough in Walter Gardens' hibiscus hybridizing and an improvement over older cultivars. This indeterminate flowering plant produces flowers at the nodes all along the stems rather than just at the top like some other cultivars. Near-black buds open to glossy, deep scarlet red, 7- to 8-inch wide flowers with heavily overlapping petals. It flowers from midsummer to early fall. The 2½- to 3-foot tall and 4-foot wide plants produce glossy deep green, leathery, maple-like leaves with slight purple overtones. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

'Party Favor' is a long blooming cultivar that produces large 8- to 10-inch wide

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Each variety boasts gray-green, heavily dentate foliage and large bracts with a distinctive ruffling along the margins. Colors range from hues of pink and purple. Each selection in the series has a unique duo-toned color scheme with the bract colors being distinctively different from the flowers themselves. Plants are strong, sturdy, and drought and humidity tolerant preferring full sun and well-drained soil. They flower profusely from spring through summer. Hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 8.

Lavandula angustifolia 'Blue Rider' from Hishtil is an upright scented evergreen herb with compact growth habit. The plant has very light green foliage and deep blue flowers. It grows up to 20 inches tall. The plant is native to Europe. It stands out in the garden for its free flowering habit and flower color. Plants don't need any growth regulators. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 5-8.

LEONOTIS

Leonotis mentifolia 'Savannah Sunset' from Skagit Gardens produces furry, orange flowers on tall stems. Flower clusters are perfectly round, arranged in whorls. With age, new growth appears from each blossom center, creating an interesting tiered effect. Light green, bushy foliage is aromatic with somewhat woody stems. Plants reach 60-72 inches tall and 36 inches wide.

LEUCANTHEMUM

Leucanthemum 'Sante' from Darwin Perennials grows to 6-8 inches tall and bears double, pure white flowers in summer on very strong stems. It is hardy in



Leucanthemum 'Sante'



Leonotis mentifolia 'Savannah Sunset'

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USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

The first year flowering *Leucanthemum* 'LaCrosse' from Florensis produces spoon shaped white petals. This well-branched, compact plant flowers 10-12 weeks. It will flower the second year with a mass of flowers.

Leucanthemum × *superbum* 'Paladin' from Terra Nova Nurseries has a new and unique flower-type for a Shasta daisy. Flowers have three rows of ruffled white petals on stiff, upright stems. This plant was bred with a unique flower form on a compact habit and a long bloom time. The disagreeable odor common to this genera was bred-out, making it almost odorless and highly desirable. It has a clumping, upright habit reaching 16 inches tall and 15 inches wide. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 5-8.

Leucanthemum superbum 'Banana Cream' from Walters Gardens produces long lasting lemon yellow flowers that brighten to light butter yellow as

they mature. Plants bloom prolifically all summer long atop strong, upright stems. It has nicely compact, dark green foliage and exhibits increased disease resistance. It can be used in the landscape or combination containers. Plants reach 20-24 inches tall and 18-24 inches wide. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 5-9.

LOBELIA

Lobelia valida 'Delft Blue' from Kieft is compact, sturdy and well branched. It produces succulent-like deep green foliage with toothed edges. It is long flowering with intense blue flowers that are self-cleaning. Delft Blue reaches 16-20 inches tall and 12 inches wide.

The *Lobelia speciosa* Princess series from Hishtil contains three varieties (Crimson, Rose and Scarlet). The compact plants quickly develop into bushy clumps that produce flower spikes. Plants have rounded shiny deep green to bronze red foliage and large single



Lobelia speciosa 'Princess Rose'

Luzula sylvatica 'Solar Flair'

flowers. Plants grow up to 20 inches tall and 12 inches wide.

LUZULA

Luzula sylvatica 'Solar Flair' from Jelitto produces low growing, ground covering, rhizomatous, evergreen clumps of wide grass-like blades. Its consistent golden twisting leaves with fringed, hairy edges, is at its most colorful early in the season and again in the early winter months.

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middle of the border, foundation plantings, mass plantings, butterfly gardens, cutting and cottage gardens. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-8.

PHYSOSTEGIA

Physostegia virginiana 'Crystal Peak White' from Benary is excellent for mass plantings or as a filler in mixed combination planters. The 16-inch tall, well-branched plant produces a multitude of bright white flower spikes that do not fade or brown as they age. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 2-9.

POLYGONUM

Polygonum capitatum from GroLink is a perennial groundcover that is very low maintenance and drought tolerant. It has variegated foliage and produces ball shaped flowers all season making it ideal for basket production. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 7-11.

POTENTILLA

Potentilla megalantha 'Yellow Sunrise' is day neutral, but does require a cold vernalization period. It is hardy to at least USDA Hardiness Zone 4. The plant, which is naturally compact with a very tidy growth habit, features very attractive large, elegant leaves. It produces large yellow flowers blooming continuously from spring through early summer. It is available as a rooted liner exclusively from Pineae Greenhouses.

Potentilla atrosanguinea var. *argyrophylla* 'Golden Starlet' and 'Scarlet Starlet' from Jelitto, come from a distinguished line of Himalayan species, recognized for attractive foliage and colorful flowers. These two seed strains yield blooms in bright gold-yellow and deep scarlet. The 12-inch tall plants have a compact habit with grey-green 3-segment pinnate leaves with toothed margins. These two varieties can be combined in rock gardens, front of the border, between paving stones or in mixed containers. Both are hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 5-8.

PRIMULA

The new seed-produced *Primula denticulata* Confetti series from Syngenta Flowers includes Blue, Deep Rose and White. It

makes a novel spring impulse item that will drive early season sales. The plants' large lollipop-like flowers form on sturdy stems. The uniform series will bloom two weeks earlier than other varieties on the market.

Primula rosea Rose from Syngenta produces deep rose flower heads before the foliage in the early spring. These seed-produced plants have a compact rosette habit for 4-inch pots.

PRUNELLA

The beautiful and dainty *Prunella grandiflora* 'Bella Blue' from Benary is covered with masses of violet-blue flowers throughout the summer. It grows to 6-8 inches tall. 'Bella Blue' is an excellent addition to mixed combinations, and is also extremely showy in the landscape. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

PULMONARIA

Terra Nova Nurseries' 'Silver Bouquet', has strong *Pulmonaria cevennensis* breeding. It holds up well in containers like *P. cevennensis* but has shorter foliage that is all silver and larger flowers that change from pink to blue. The clumping plant grows to 7 inches tall and 20 inches wide. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

PULSATILLA

The *Pulsatilla vulgaris* Pinwheel series from Syngenta Flowers includes Dark Red Shades, Blue Violet Shades and White.

Plants produce interesting looking flowers with contrasting yellow centers over fine-textured foliage. This is a unique impulse item for early spring sales.

ROSMARINUS

Rosmarinus officinalis 'Gold Dust' from PlantHaven has bright green and gold variegated foliage that stays golden year-round. A sport of 'Rex', 'Gold Dust' is heat, drought and disease tolerant and won't burn in the sun. It has an upright, well-branched and vigorous habit. 'Gold Dust' is a good ornamental landscape plant as well as a culinary herb. It has been tested to USDA Hardiness Zone 7, possibly 6.

SALVIA

Danziger has added Blue Joy and Pink to its *Salvia nemorosa* Sallyrosa series. These varieties are tolerant to drought and low and high temperature extremes. Blue Joy has an abundance of stems loaded with masses of bright blue flowers from June to October. Pink produces soft pastel-pink flower spikes that stand at attention above nicely mounded foliage. Plants have aromatic deep green basal leaves and reach 15 inches tall and 16-18 inches wide. They are well suited for pots, patios and landscape beds. Blue Joy and Pink attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds and are deer-resistant. They are hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-8.

Deep Blue is a new color in the Flo-



Physostegia virginiana
'Crystal Peak White'

Potentilla megalantha 'Yellow Sunrise'



Primula denticulata 'Confetti Blue'



Salvia nemorosa 'Sallyrosa Pink'

STACHYS

Stachys macrantha 'Morning Blush' from Jelitto produces dozens of clustered 16-inch spikes surrounded with pink-flushed white tubular blooms in July and August. The low-growing compact clumps are packed with wrinkled, heart-shaped, dark green leaves that remain remarkably handsome the entire season. 'Morning Blush' looks great in contain-

ers, rock gardens or at the front of a border.

TIARELLA

Tiarella 'Happy Trails' from Terra Nova Nurseries offers a profusion of runners and charming rounded-lobed leaves that are marked with a thick black band on the veins. It's a vigorous trailer with short white flowers. Wonderful as a shade

ground cover, this tiarella is perfect for cascading down a woodland slope or weaving with other plants in a container or hanging basket. It reaches 4 inches tall and 36 inches wide. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

VERBASCUM

Verbascum 'Flower of Scotland' from Plants Nouveau produces flower buds from June to August that open a rich-wine red and mature to a soft mauve-pink. This reblooming plant grows to 5 inches tall by 6 inches wide. 'Flower of Scotland' comes from Dick Maas of Maas en van Stein Nurseries in the Netherlands. Plant in front of a dry border, on dry, sunny slopes, in rock gardens and in dry mixed and specimen containers. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-8.

VERONICA

Veronica incana 'Pure Silver' from Intrinsic Perennial Gardens was selected for better vigor and ease of propagation. Plants produce lavender blue flowers for three to four weeks starting in July. The silver foliage looks good all year long and is semi-evergreen. It is hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9.

VINCA

Northwest Horticulture has released two new vinca varieties.

Vinca minor 'Merlot' is a sport of *V. minor* 'Atropurpurea' that features a burgundy wine colored flowers over dark green foliage, which offers a nice contrast.

V. minor 'Double Bowles' is a sport of *V. minor* 'Bowles.' It features a unique extra petal formation and light blue flowers over dark green foliage. Both of these varieties share the growth habit of the original plants. They flower heavily in the spring after vernalization and repeat flowering sporadically during the summer depending on the climate.

VIOLA

'Jumping Jack' from Darwin Perennials has larger flowers in brighter colors. This extremely floriferous variety blooms continuously from summer to autumn. It reaches 6-8 inches tall. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 5-10. 🌱

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