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GREENHOUSE PRODUCT NEWS

2019
Spring Trials:
TOP TRENDS

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JUNE 2019

As 'Scene' at CALIFORNIA SPRING TRIALS

BY TIM HODSON

The 2019 edition of California Spring Trials took place a few weeks earlier than in years past, but that didn't slow down the breeders and exhibiting companies from putting on an amazing show.

This year, for the first time in several years, California Spring Trials took place in March.

The team from GPN and Lawn & Garden Retailer made our way down the California coast over five days visiting all of the stops to see what the breeding companies and other exhibitors have in store for the coming year.

Even for the experienced veteran, attending CAST can be a sensory overload — there is so much to see, smell, touch and even taste — that it can sometimes be a bit overwhelming.

There is something for everyone up and down the state but it may not always be obvious to see some of the things so this month we want to show you a sampling

of a few of the categories we thought seemed to be trending this year.

We logged a lot of miles, saw a lot of plants, talked to a lot of people and took a ton of photos to give you an idea of what is on the horizon.

In the July issue, we have many more new variety introductions lined up for you — so stay tuned ...



Perennial Popularity

1 California Spring Trials served as a coming out party for a lot of perennials with the introduction of ThinkPlants — a new marketing initiative created to bring exceptional perennials to the North American marketplace. The consortium is made up of Syngenta Flowers, Terra Nova Nurseries, Danziger, Kiwiflora, Unex and Kapiteyn.

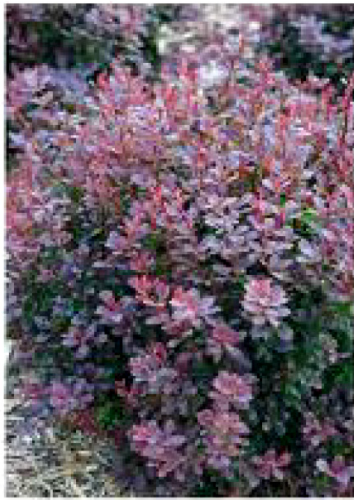
2 In addition to joining the ThinkPlants consortium, Terra Nova Nurseries also put together an attractive display of its latest perennial introductions at the Pacific Plug & Liner location.

3 Dümmer Orange introduced Rock Crystal, a new series of delosperma with seven colors. Rock Crystal produces large, vivid flowers that are suitable for 1 quart to gallon production. It flowers under short and long days and produces retail color throughout the season.

4 One perennial that was really attracting attention was digitalis 'Pink Panther' from American Takii. This first-year flowering plant is compact for easy shipping. Its foliage is well balanced, and the flowers are sterile. 'Pink Panther's' sturdy branches help produce multiple colorful flower spikes.

5 Darwin Perennials believes it has "cracked the code" for hardiness with the new digitalis 'Arctic Fox Rose'. It is a beautiful, long-flowering hybrid that is hardy in northern gardens but also flowers all summer long in southern gardens.

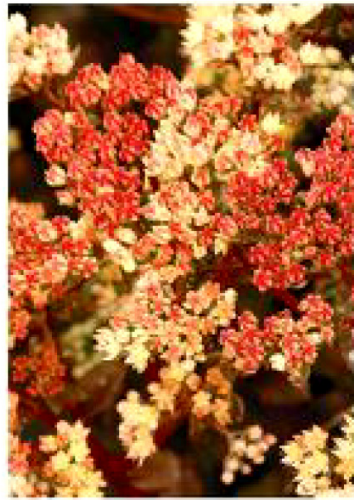
VARIETY SPOTLIGHT



barberry

'Sunjoy Todo' is a dwarf, sterile, dark-leaf barberry with deep purple, glossy foliage that persists through the year, especially in warmer climates. Attractive orange flowers develop fruit; however, seeds are hollow and non-viable. It is hardy to Zones 4 through 8 and reaches a height of 1.5 to 2 feet.

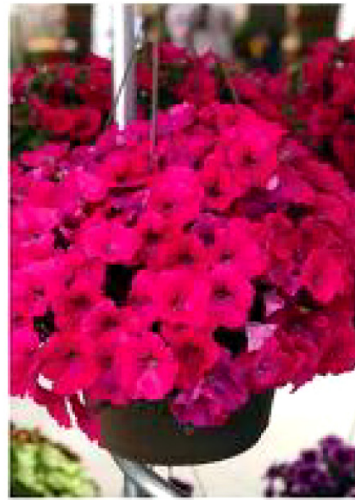
Proven Winners ColorChoice
www.springmeadownursery.com



sedum

Admired for its burgundy leaves and rose-gold flowers, 'Peach Pearls' boasts crowns the first year and an excellent habit. It attracts pollinators, requires minimal water and is hardy to Zones 4 through 9. It prefers full sun and blooms in August and September.

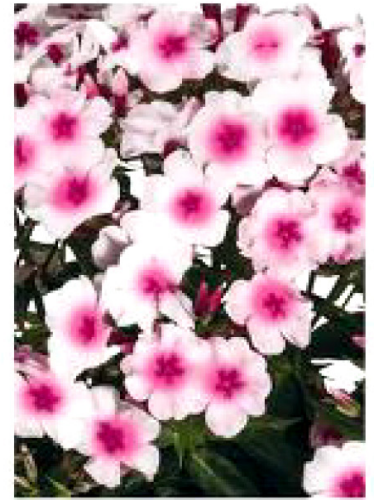
Terra Nova Nurseries
www.terravanurseries.com
800.215.9450



petunia

New to the Capella series is Neon Pink, an eye-catching variety with captivating color. It performs well in propagation, blooms early enough for any program, and continues to grow and perform in the home garden. Capella petunias are beautiful in baskets and mix well in combinations.

Danziger
www.danzigeronline.com



phlox

The Flame Pro series features an extremely long flowering window and blooms late spring through summer. It is two weeks earlier than the Flame series. Five colors are currently available: Cerise, Lilac, Violet Charme, Purple and Soft Pink (pictured).

Dümmen Orange
www.dummenorange.com
614.850.9551