

March 2013

30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

# Greenhouse & GROWER

## SPRING TRIALS SNEAK PREVIEW

45 Top New Varieties  
You Won't Want To Miss p.27

Plus:  
Managing The  
**Dwindling Labor Pool** p.16

The Latest On  
**Rose Rosette Disease** p.48

Charlie Hall: 2013 Could Be  
**The Turnaround Year** p.59





ON THE COVER

## 27 Spring Trials Sneak Preview

By Robin Siktberg

Anxious to see what new plants are being rolled out at Spring Trials next month? Here's an early look.

Cover by Tyler Hatch



**2011 Silver Awards**  
The Pest Report: Special Supplement  
and Front Cover Supplement

**2010 Silver Award**  
Trade Show/Conference Coverage  
- Spring Trials

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By Robin Siktberg

Sustainable energy incentives such as grants and rebates can finance money-saving projects that are otherwise out of reach. But these programs are not always the answer. Here's how to know the difference.

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# 9 Perennials You Need To Grow

## Blooms of Bressingham

### *Leucanthemum xsuperbum* 'Freak!'

Winner of *Greenhouse Grower's* Readers' Choice Award, 'Freak!' is a dream variety for growers and retailers. It's programmable for weekly flowering with a compact habit and first-year flowering. A showstopper covered with 2 to 2.5-inch diameter flowers, 'Freak!' blooms from June to frost. Its normal garden height is 13 inches, but in containers it is a more compact 9 inches.

### *Veronica longifolia* 'First Love'

From Rene van Gaalen, this is the first introduction in a series of three colors, which also includes 'First Glory,' a deep blue, and 'First Lady,' a crisp white. Featuring numerous, sturdy stems with rich-pink flower spikes and well-branched green foliage, this veronica is easy to produce and flower for a late spring-early summer crop since it performs well from unvernallized liners.

### *Phygelius* 'Tie Dye Rosy Cheeks'

This compact, very well-branched grower has tons of deep, dark-pink tubular flowers set against burgundy-colored calyces and green foliage. There are three additional colors in the Tie Dye series: 'Magic Mandarin,' a peachy-orange; 'Radiant Red,' a dark rosy-red; and 'Yellow Submarine,' a bright yellow. All four have a lavish flower display and are easy to grow. *Phygelius* prefers full sun to part shade. The height for all four cultivars is 10 to 14 inches.

## Terra Nova Nurseries

### *Sedum* 'Thunderhead'

With its huge, deep-rose flower heads and stout, upright stems, 'Thunderhead' is ideal for mixed beds, borders and dry gardens. The handsome, grey-green foliage is the perfect foil for its dramatic, long-lasting flowers. The average height of this variety when in bloom is 30 inches.

What's new in the perennial world? A little bit of everything, from dwarf varieties of monarda and perovskia to a grower-friendly veronica.



*Leucanthemum xsuperbum* 'Freak!'



*Veronica longifolia* 'First Love'



*Phygelius* 'Tie Dye Rosy Cheeks'



*Sedum* 'Thunderhead'

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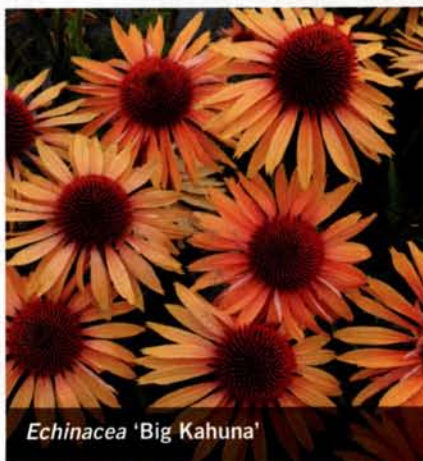




## Varieties Perennial Roundup

### *Echinacea* 'Big Kahuna'

*Echinacea* 'Big Kahuna' has big, informal, honey-mango-colored flowers that sit atop strong stems. The sweet scent of the flower goes right along with its Hawaiian name. 'Big Kahuna' is perfect for garden borders and is a beautiful cut flower. It requires full sun and prefers to be moderately dry between waterings. With a sturdy, upright habit, it reaches 27 inches tall in flower.



*Echinacea* 'Big Kahuna'



*Salvia nemerosa* 'Lyrical Rose'

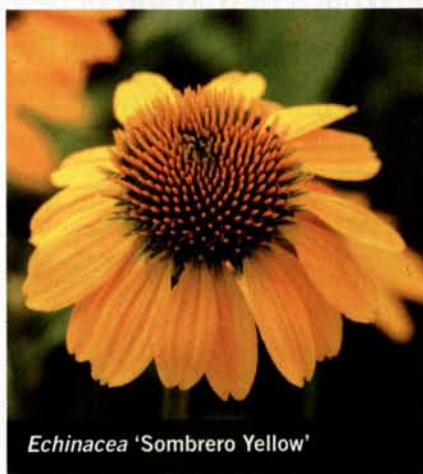


*Monarda didyma* 'Pardon My Purple'

## Darwin Perennials

### *Echinacea* Sombrero Series

This very well-branched series is well-matched for habit and timing, and perfect for use in spring-planted programs. Sturdy, compact plants have proven hardiness and drought resistance. These echinaceas are very floriferous and have bright, richly colored blooms. Plant in full sun and well-drained fertile soil. Drought resistant. Deadheading will prolong the flowering period.



*Echinacea* 'Sombrero Yellow'



*Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Peek A Blue'

### *Salvia nemerosa* 'Lyrical Rose'

Featuring intense pink flowers on a sturdy, mounding plant, 'Lyrical Rose' sells

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well because it blooms at retail. It's the newest member of this very hardy series that also includes 'Lyrical Blue' (deep blue with purple stems) and 'Lyrical Silvertone' (blue bicolor).

## Walters Gardens

### *Monarda didyma* 'Pardon My Purple'

A new dwarf monarda just a foot tall, 'Pardon My Purple' has full-size flowers that add a splash of color to both containers and borders. A bonus is its good resistance to powdery mildew. Its sister cultivar, 'Pardon My Pink,' has beautiful clear-pink flowers. Hardy to Zone 4 and maybe slightly colder, both varieties attract hummingbirds and grow well in sunny locations.

### *Perovskia atriplicifolia* 'Peek A Blue'

Even smaller than *Perovskia* 'Little Spire,' this new Russian sage measures just over two feet tall in flower. Attractive, silvery, finely dissected foliage provides a beautiful contrast to the lavender flowers, which appear in mid-summer and stay until fall.

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