

# L & GR

LAWN & GARDEN RETAILER

*Debuts from*

**CALIFORNIA SPRING TRIALS**

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# READY FOR RETAIL

Take a look at a sampling of the numerous new varieties that made their debut at California Spring Trials.

By Tim Hodson

Each year, California Spring Trials (CAST) provides our industry with the opportunity to see and learn about the latest new variety introductions that are on tap for the coming year.

This year, CAST took place a few weeks earlier than it has in recent years as the team from Lawn & Garden Retailer and GPN spent five days in March visiting all of the locations.

Last month, we showed you some of the creative and innovative merchandising concepts that were on display during our time in California — this month we want to show you some of the new varieties.

There were hundreds of new intros that premiered at CAST, but we wanted to provide you with a snapshot (actually 35 of them) of some of the new varieties that caught our eye this year and that you just may want to consider for your retail benches in 2020.

Enjoy and start your planning today!

## 1. Viola 'Corina Purple Ice'

Hem Genetics

A new addition to the series, 'Corina Purple Ice' shows off its striking color and has a uniform habit for bench appeal. It is suited for spring and autumn sales and can be used in a wide range of container sizes. It produces tons of flowers, which continue to produce blooms throughout the season.

## 2. Sedum 'Silver Roses'

Jaldety Nursery

This succulent has a very appealing texture and a compact habit that plays well in combinations. It has cream-colored flowers and silver rosette-like leaves that are heat and drought tolerant and require hardly any maintenance.

## 3. Nemesia 'Honey Dark Purple'

Cohen Nurseries

This nemesia series has a compact but upright growth habit. The fragrant flowers will bloom from spring until fall but perform best in cool weather and the pollinators love them. It will work well in containers, hanging baskets and borders. Full sun to part shade.

## 4. Thymus spp. 'Ruby Glow'

Hishtil

A low spreading groundcover, this thyme will produce ruby-colored flowers surrounded by dark green foliage on 6-inch stems from late spring through early summer. It has a ball-shaped growth habit with gentle lemon scent and is drought tolerant.

## 5. Adenanthos 'Chris Tal'

Nir Nursery

This evergreen shrub is a friendly Christmas tree that has soft silvery green-gray foliage that have a feather-like texture and will grow to 1 ½ inches. It can tolerate mild frost and doesn't require much fertilizer or water.



## 6. Coleus 'Red Threads'

Terra Nova Nurseries

'Red Threads' has eye-catching, feathery, burgundy-colored leaves that create a soft, fluffy look. This coleus has an upright, but slightly spreading, habit with dense foliage. Works well as a filler for containers, summer borders and mass planting and is hardy to Zone 10-11.

## 7. Echibeckia 'Summertime Blazing Fire'

Pacific Plug & Liner

This addition to the Summerina series has a striking two-toned yellow and red flower with smaller petals or "fringes" near the center of the flower that look like a flame. The large flowers and high flower count work well in large pots. It is a great item for shoulder season sales.

## 8. Pentas Graffiti 20/20

Benary

Graffiti 20/20 is a new series of pentas that loves the sun and butterflies love it. It is a versatile performer with dense, tight flower clusters that ensure maximum color at retail. Nine colors and one mix are available (Flirty Pink is pictured).

