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4 THE COVER

Compact for small gardens, sporting colorful foliage, and disease-resistant.... This year's new varieties demonstrate the latest achievements of breeding technology and the global nature of the new plant pipeline. Our cover features, from left to right, 'Baby Pete' compact agapanthus from Monrovia Nursery; 'Tuxedo' dark-leafed ceanothus, a liner exclusive from Pacific Plug & Liner; 'Berry Smoothie' heuchera from Terra Nova Nursery; and 'Fireworks' kalmia, a Richard Jaynes variety commercially introduced by Briggs Nursery. All photos courtesy of these nurseries. See related story on page 29.

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PROVEN WINNERS

Proven Winners™ has almost 200 new varieties on the bench for 2009. Many are additions to existing series; others are standalone intros or entirely new series. Two begonia series named for Las Vegas hotels, the Mandalay™ and Bellagio™ tuberous begonia series feature three varieties each, 'Mandalay Pearl,' 'Mandarin,' and Flamingo,' and Bellagio 'Blush,' 'Pink,' and 'Apricot.' The plants grow 8 to 12 inches tall and are hardy in Zones 10-11.

A new diascia, 'Flirtation, blooms prolifically all summer, especially with a cool-season start. The pale bright flowers sport candy pink throats. Proven Winners'



Mandalay Mandarin Begonia



Flirtation Diascia



Dreamsicle Superbells



Scooter Barberry Scutellaria



Euphorbia tirucalli 'Rosea'



Shark Skin Aloe

Supernesia™ nemesia series gains four colors: ▼

In the petunias category, 'Dreamsicle' and 'Trailing Lilac Mist ' join Proven Winners' Superbells™ calibrachoa series. The bi-colored yellow and white 'Citrus' and pale pink 'Vista Silverberry' were added to the Supertunias hybrid petunias series for 2009.

Agave 'Shark Skin' is the standout succulent among Proven Winners' new "unthirsty" offerings, which include aloes named after lounge lizards (or the cast of The Sopranos), echeverias, and euphorbias. Euphorbia tirucalli 'Rosea' is an intriguing succulent bound to attract attention from younger gardens and designers. It's hardy in Zones 9-11 and either an annual or a winter-housebound plant elsewhere.

Among the hybrids mined from drought-tolerant native plants, hesperozygis and scutellaria offer possibilities for container and rock gardening. 'Plum Dandy' hesperozygis is a mint family member of Brazilian origins. It's hardy in Zones 9-11 and grows 12 to 18 inches tall. A scutellaria series that hybridizes the native groundcover includes four colors: Scooter™ Barberry, Flame, Flamingo, Monroe and Scarlet.

Heat-loving osteospermums and arctotis expand the sun garden palette with Proven Winners additions of Sunny Osteospermum and 'Hearts and Tarts' and 'Cherry' to the The Ravers™ arctotis series.

For spring production, Proven Winners is also introducing the Lanai™ verbena series and several new coleus varieties. Three new Senetti cinerarias will be available for cool-season sales. For more information on all the new Proven Winners introductions, go to www.provenwinners.com.

TERRA NOVA NURSERY OFFERS SEVERAL NEW SERIES

New echinacea, agastache, and coreopsis series top the list of 2009 new varieties from Terra Nova Nurseries. Heuchera, heucherella, tiarella, and begonia varieties also debut in the nursery's catalog this year.

Terra Nova's new introductions include coneflowers in sizzling hot colors and snowy white, plus a fully double, zinnia-like pink echinacea called 'Pink Poodle.' The vibrant orange 'Tangerine Dream' bears 4-inch fragrant flowers with overlapping petals and branches into multiple sturdy stems. Plants grow to 30 inches

wide by 27 inches tall. Early-bloming 'Flame Thrower' sports two-tone blooms of orange and yellow. The scented flowers appear summer into fall on a multi-branching plant that grows 40 inches by 36 inches tall.

'Mango Punch' is one of a series of coreopsis varieties bred for a neatly mounding habit up to 18 inches tall and free flowering tendencies. The apricotorange blooms are lightly tinted with a red overlay. Other varieties in the series include 'Lemon Punch,' 'Strawberry Punch,' and 'Rum Punch,' plus the petite 'Little Penny.' All are hardy in Zones 9–13 except 'Little Penny,' which is heat tolerant to Zone 11.

Terra Nova's Winter Jewels™ hellebore series from breeder Marietta O'Bryne now includes several new varieties, including 'Amber Gem,' featuring the palest yellow double blooms blushed with red. The winter-blooming plants are hardy in Zones 5-8 and reach a mature size of 24 inches tall by 12 inches wide.

Heucheras and their relatives are a Terra Nova specialty, and the nursery continues to turn out new gems in spectacular colors. Berry Smoothie (on our cover) is one of the standouts. The rose-pink hybrid, a cross between Heuchera villosa and H. americana. features a robust habit and large leaves painted in shades from pink to purple. It's hardy in Zones 4-9 and grows to 18 inches tall by wide. On the new 'Sweet Tea' heucherella, the cinnamon-red veining stands out on rose and orange foliage. The large-leaved plant darkens in color as the summer progresses, then lightens in the cooler weather of fall. Plants have a mounding habit and grow to 28 inches tall by 20 inches wide. They're hardy in Zones 4-9. Tiarella 'Mystic Mist' features ruby red veining on white-flecked bright green leaves. The leaves turn rosy pink in fall. The plant's ultimate size is 11 inches tall by 5 inches wide.

A new brunnera, from Terra Nova, 'Emerald Mist,' flaunts jade-green heart-shaped leaves speckled with silver edges. The shade-loving brunnera sends up wands of forget-me-not flowers in spring that shine against the green and silver foliage. Plants are hardy in Zones 4-9 and grow to 24" high by 14" wide.

Among the flashy new tropical begonias from Terra Nova, 'Madame Queen' stands out for its frilled leaf edges and red reverse. Glossy copper leaves and tall sprays of deep pink flowers ehance this "drama queen." The tender rhizomatous begonia is hardy only in Zones 11-13. It grows 28 inches tall by 20 inches wide.

One of the 2009 novelties from Terra Nova is the golden 'Sunshine Charm' tradescantia. Valued in the Midwest and Southeast for its shade-tolerance and lavender-pink blooms, tradescantia will attract new fans with its new golden outlook. 'Sunshine Charmer' features gold to lime green foliage and lilac pink flowers. It's hardy in Zones 5-9 and grows 15 inches tall by 20 inches wide.

These and more 2009 introductions from Terra Nova can be viewed at www.terranovanurseries.com. ▼



Flame Thrower Echinacea



Sweet Tea Heucherella



Madame Queen Begonia



Mango Punch Coreopsis



Mystic Mist Tiarella



Sunshine Charmer Tradescantia