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A Healthy Business

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Today's Garden Center's

VARIETY CENTRAL

A fresh look at plants and merchandising driving sales • Perennials & Roses



'Blush'



'Patriot Dream'



'Jethro Tull'



'Morning Star Deep Rose'

Perennials That Pop

We highlight some of the top-performing perennials and roses for spring and introduce you to a few newcomers for 2010.

Anthony Tesselaar

Among the latest plants slated for introduction to the United States in 2010 by Anthony Tesselaar (Tesselaar.com) are phormium 'Black Adder,' ceanothus 'Tuxedo' and fairy magnolia 'Blush.'

■ 'Black Adder' is tall, dark and dramatic. The perennial is a burgundy-black spike of glossy sword leaves shooting upward from its base. It is notable for its blacker-than-ever color, elegant architectural form and drought and wind tolerance.

■ 'Tuxedo' is a black-foliaged ceanothus. It made its United States debut in California last year, and it will be available across the U.S. in 2010. Powder-blue flowers provide a stunning contrast against glossy, deep purple-black foliage in a shrub that grows to 8 by 6 feet and blooms in the fall.

■ Fairy magnolia 'Blush,' another Tesselaar variety, is delicate and fragrant. 'Blush' delivers lilac-pink fragrant flowers, preceded by russet-colored buds. It is accompanied by evergreen foliage resembling a camellia without the gloss. 'Blush' is an upright, compact, bushy shrub that reaches 8 feet high.



'Black Adder'

'Tuxedo'

Bailey Nurseries

■ 'Patriot Dream,' a new rose from Bailey Nurseries (BaileyNurseries.com), is the 2010 "Remember Me" Rose Garden selection that stands as a tribute to the 64 people killed on American Airlines Flight 77. American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

A donation from the sale of each 'Patriot Dream' rose will be made to the "Remember Me" Rose Garden, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating three gardens -- one each in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania, to honor the memory and spirit of each man, woman and child who lost their lives on September 11.

'Patriot Dream' has vibrant, deep salmon-orange blooms. Salmon buds open to showcase a vibrant orange, hybrid tea-shaped bloom that contrasts with the bright disease-resistant foliage.

Ball Horticultural Company

■ 'Jethro Tull' coreopsis and 'Dasante Blue' delphinium are both available from Ball (BallHort.com). 'Jethro Tull' reliably blooms fluted with non-fading, golden yellow flowers all sun-



'Patriot Dream'

VARIETY CENTRAL

Perennials & Roses

swirling open to release a heavenly sweet pear fragrance distinctively different from any other scent in the rose garden.

■ 'Beach Blanket' is the newest and most brilliantly colored in the fast-growing, heavy-blooming Blanket series. Sporting fresh tropical tones of pink and yellow-gold, this gently fragrant rose is a just-for-fun confection of wide-open 3-inch blooms, with new buds opening so quickly you may have trouble finding the foliage beneath the lavish covering of color at the height of the season.

■ 'Peppermint Splash' grandiflora, another Jackson & Perkins newcomer, sports 4.5-inch blooms with 20 petals apiece, open with perfect high-centered form, releasing the evocative high-summer aroma of fresh honeysuckle. Petals are a swirled confection of rich pink against Christmas



'Mesa Yellow'



'Evening Star'



Sweet Intoxication

red, and snowy white settled on dark green, glossy foliage.

■ Another rose available through Jackson & Perkins is Sweet Intoxication. Seductive fountains of 4-inch magenta blooms will permeate gardens with an alluring clove fragrance. Displaying up to 35 petals per rose, Sweet Intoxication is a delight to behold. Sparkling amethyst clusters beguile even the most jaded rose lover with non-stop color and fragrance, season after season. Glossy green foliage and a columnar, upright habit make

this floribunda the ultimate garden vixen. It stands strong while casting a spell.

Pacific Plug & Liner

■ Veronica 'Inspire,' a compact and floriferous selection with a wonderful growing habit, is available in two colors for spring. It will not flop over like other large veronicas. 'Inspire' will reach a height of 12 inches in full sun with continual blooming May through August.



'Whitewater'

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PanAmerican Seed

■ 'Mesa Yellow' gaillardia from PanAmerican Seed (PanAmSeed.com) is a first-year flowering perennial and the first commercial yellow from seed. This variety is vigorous and early flowering. Well-branched plants fill gallon containers quickly. 'Mesa Yellow' maintains a height of 16 to 18 inches without flopping over, and it shows intense, non-fading color all season.

Terra Nova Nurseries

■ 'Whitewater' acanthus is a new introduction from Terra Nova (TerraNovaNurseries.com), boasting vigorous, variegated leaves with white margins. This herbaceous perennial has a clumping habit and blooms 5 inch-tall ornamental flower stalks of pink and cream in summer.

■ 'Mint Julep' heuchera possesses striking, mint-green and silver leaves, bringing a bright addition to shady areas of a landscape. With a dense, mounding habit, this fills in quickly and achieves an aver-



age height of 9 inches. Short cones of clean white flowers bloom in spring.

■ Another new introduction from Terra Nova is 'Evening Star' thalictrum, a lovely woodland perennial designed for shade. Wispy leaflets in olive, tan and copper-to-red-brown complement a central silver star and are held on wiry stems. Tufts of lavender flowers bloom spring through summer.

■ 'Bright Star' yucca is an ideal evergreen perennial that presents stunning color from early spring until late summer. This variegated plant boasts sword-like leaves with broad yellow margins and sage-green centers. 'Bright Star' is a drought-tolerant native to the Southeast, with a tight, mounding habit that grows to 36 inches wide by 18-inches tall. It is best placed in full sun.

■ 'Cinnamon Stick' roscoe is a ginger relative. This herbaceous perennial has a clumping, rhizomatous habit with dark-red stems topped with bronze foliage and large, orchid-like lavender flowers that bloom from early to late summer. 'Cinnamon Stick' achieves a full height of 16 inches and width of 12 inches, and it takes shade to part shade.



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