

# plants we love

compiled by MEGHAN SHINN



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Award-winning plants, new introductions  
& native favorites from across the nation



## ANTHONY TESSELAAR

Anthony Tesselaar Plants (tesselaar.com) seeks beautiful and fuss-free plants from breeders all over the world. Plants are trialed at test gardens on three continents before they are brought forth for gardeners. New introductions for 2010 include:

### *Carex oshimensis* 'Everest'

This vigorous new selection of Oshima sedge has pure white leaf margins to brighten the shade garden. At just 12 inches high and wide, it also works well in a mixed container. Takes full sun to shade. Zones 5 to 9.

### *Phormium cookianum* 'Black Adder'

'Black Adder' is a mountain flax with glossy burgundy-black leaves. The foliage grows to about three feet tall and curves slightly at the tips. It likes full sun and low humidity and tolerates drought once established. Zones 8 to 11.

### *Ceanothus* 'Tuxedo'

This California lilac should be noted for its very dark foliage, which lines an excellent branching habit. Lavender-blue flowers appear sporadically through the summer and in profusion in late summer and fall. This eight-by-eight-foot shrub prefers full sun. Zones 8 to 10.

### *Michelia* 'Fairy Magnolia Blush'

Bred by renowned New Zealand breeder Mark Jury, 'Fairy Magnolia Blush' has fragrant pale pink flowers that open from reddish buds in late winter to early spring. This compact evergreen shrub works well as a hedge or in topiary, reaching 10 to 14 feet tall and 8 to 10 feet wide. Grow it in full sun to part shade. Zones 8 to 10.

### *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Strawberries & Cream'

This compact, free-flowering hydrangea has dark rosy red blooms and light pink centers. Recommended as a houseplant, it will grow in the garden, reaching three feet tall and wide. Part shade to shade. Zones 7 to 9.



*Carex oshimensis* 'Everest'



*Phormium cookianum* 'Black Adder'



*Ceanothus* 'Tuxedo'



*Michelia* 'Fairy Magnolia Blush'



*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Strawberries & Cream'



*Gaillardia aristata* 'Georgia Sunset'



*Gaillardia aristata* 'Georgia Yellow'



*Pennisetum purpureum* 'Princess Molly'



*Pennisetum purpureum* 'Princess Caroline'



*Penstemon* 'Prairie Twilight'



*Diascia* 'Flirtation Orange'



*Cyperus papyrus* Graceful Grasses King Tut



*Ipomoea batatas* Illusion series



*Petunia* Pretty Much Picasso



*Lobularia* 'Snow Princess'

## ATHENS SELECT

Athens Select (athensselect.com) is a collection of plants trialed and chosen by Dr. Allan Armitage at his test gardens at the University of Georgia. They're judged by their tolerance for heat and humidity, uniqueness and disease resistance. Athens Select for 2010 are:

### *Gaillardia aristata* 'Georgia Sunset'

Brilliant gold-and-orange blossoms appear from late spring to fall on this new blanket flower. The plant grows to about 18 inches, with a compact, bushy habit. Place in full sun. Zones 7 to 9.

### *Gaillardia aristata* 'Georgia Yellow'

Coming out of the same breeding program as 'Georgia Sunset', this cultivar has bright yellow flowers on sturdy stems. It is exceptionally heat and humidity tolerant, and it blooms all summer. Full sun. Zones 7b to 9.

### *Pennisetum purpureum* 'Princess Molly'

This is an ideal pennisetum grass for small spaces, where color is desired but size is not. The thin burgundy leaves grow just 14 to 20 inches. Plant in full sun. Zones 8 to 10.

### *Pennisetum purpureum* 'Princess Caroline'

The sister to 'Princess Molly', 'Princess Caroline' is taller, reaching a height of three feet with brilliant purple foliage. It has great disease resistance and sturdy growth. Full sun. Zones 8 to 10.

## BLOOMS OF BRESSINGHAM

This British company (bobna.com) specializes in herbaceous perennials and alpine plants. Adrian Bloom, president, frequently visits North America, and subsequently the company has introduced many plants suitable for gardeners here. In 2010 they are unveiling:

### *Penstemon* 'Prairie Twilight'

Both pretty and hardy, 'Prairie Twilight' beardstongue bears tubular pink flowers with white tips and throats in late May through July. It's an upright plant, reaching nearly two feet tall and wide. Full sun. Zones 4 to 9.

## PROVEN WINNERS

Proven Winners is a widely known brand of flowering annuals, perennials and shrubs. The company aims to produce unique, high-performing plants with excellent flowering, growth habit and disease resistance.

### *Diascia* 'Flirtation Orange'

This twinspur blooms continuously from spring through summer. Good for hanging baskets and containers because of its semi-trailing habit. Stems grow about 10 inches high with a spread of 12 inches. Full sun to part shade. Annual.

### *Cyperus papyrus* Graceful Grasses King Tut

Large heads of drooping leaves top this papyrus grass. It makes a dramatic addition to a water garden, pot or border, growing four to six feet tall and wide. Plant in full sun to part shade. Annual.

### *Ipomoea batatas* Illusion series

This series of sweet potato vine includes cultivars such as Midnight Lace, which has deeply cut leaves in the darkest purple possible. These

plants form 10-inch-high, 3-foot-wide mounds in full sun or part shade. Annual.

### *Petunia* Pretty Much Picasso

This plant marks a breakthrough in petunias with its bicolor blooms. They have purple centers ringed with green. It grows with vigor and shows a great trailing habit, reaching one foot tall and two to three feet wide. Full sun. Annual.

### *Lobularia* 'Snow Princess'

This new alyssum is already winning admirers and awards (see page 74). It has fragrant white blooms borne long after others of its ilk are done. Tolerates heat well, and its six-inch height and two-foot trailing habit make it a great container plant. Full sun to part shade. Annual.

## NOVALIS

Novalis is a national network of wholesale nurseries that produce distinctive plants for garden centers and landscape companies across the country. Novalis operates with the tagline "Plants that Work," reflecting their commitment to helping gardeners find solutions.

### *Aloe humilis* 'Hedgehog'

This succulent has spotted, spiny leaves that form a rosette to 20 inches tall. It thrives in full sun and relishes hot, dry conditions. Zones 9 to 11.

### In the Kitchen

Novalis is bringing out a line of edible plants

in 2010, in a line called In the Kitchen. It includes herbs, vegetables and small fruits, including blueberries.

### *Echinacea* 'Hot Summer'

Here's a reblooming coneflower that provides mango-colored flowers throughout the spring and the hottest summer months.

'Hot Summer' grows about three feet tall. Zones 5 to 9.

### *Weigela* Rainbow Sensation

This weigela has a nice compact habit, reaching from three to four feet tall. Its variegated leaves offer interest all season, and its soft pink flowers attract hummingbirds.

Plant in full sun. Zones 4 to 8.



*Aloe humilis* 'Hedgehog'



*Echinacea* 'Hot Summer'



*Helenium* 'Tijuana Brass'



In the Kitchen Blueberry



*Weigela* Rainbow Sensation



*Miscanthus* 'Gold Breeze'

## JOY CREEK NURSERY

Joy Creek is a retail mail-order and walk-in nursery just north of Portland, Oregon. When they couldn't find the plants they wanted at local garden centers, its founders started Joy Creek. Each year they introduce several new plants. In 2010 they are:

### *Helenium* 'Tijuana Brass'

This sneezeweed, developed at the nursery, creates a spectacular display of rich yellow flowers in early autumn. Unlike other cultivars, it also maintains its leaves all season long. It grows to nearly five feet and likes full sun. Zones 4 to 9.

### *Miscanthus* 'Gold Breeze'

*Miscanthus* 'Gold Breeze' is the big sister of the ornamental grass *M.* 'Gold Bar'. It has dense gold stripes across its apple green leaves, which are more fluid than those of 'Gold Bar'. Showy red flowers appear in late summer. To six feet tall; full sun. Zones 5 to 8.



*Hemerocallis* 'Cardinal'



*Dianthus* Passion ('WP Passion')



*Rosa* Olivia



*Rosa* Silvia

## CENTERTON

Centerton Nursery ([centertonnursery.com](http://centertonnursery.com)) breeds perennials but is perhaps best known for their daylilies, which offer superior cold tolerance and extraordinary length of bloom. 2010's new daylily is:

### *Hemerocallis* 'Cardinal'

This daylily is the first in the Jersey Early-Bird Collection from Centerton. Its bright red flowers have yellow to green throats. They appear on 21-inch stems, taller than other early-blooming daylilies. 'Cardinal' reblooms for several months, and its disease-resistant foliage maintains its green color through the season. Full sun. Zones 3 to 10.

## GREEN LEAF PLANTS

Green Leaf Plants ([yoder.com](http://yoder.com)) provides perennials and tropical plants to nurseries throughout the United States and Canada. In 2010 its introductions include:

### *Dianthus* Passion ('WP Passion')

Deep, dark red double flowers are this carnation's glory. Flower stems are very sturdy and the foliage stays clean and green. Plants grow 9 to 11 inches tall and prefer full sun. Zones 6 to 9.

### Parade potted roses

The Parade series of potted roses can winter indoors as fragrant blooming houseplants and summer outdoors as blooming container plants. Apollo ('Poulpar065') blooms medium

yellow; Olivia ('Poulpar049'), pink and white; Lamy ('Poulpar058'), lavender; and Charm ('Poulpar053'), medium red. Grow best in three- or four-inch pots. Full sun.

### PatioHit potted roses

The PatioHit series is similar to the Parade series, but with bigger flowers—best in five- to seven-inch pots. Honora ('Poulpah051') blooms white; Silvia ('Poulpah054'), deep yellow; Minelli ('Poulpah043'), apricot-orange; Isabel ('Poulpah053'), dark red. Full sun.



'Copia' tomato



'Midnight Lightning' zucchini



'Dragon' carrot



'Ruby Streaks' mustard green



'Watermelon' radish

## HIGH MOWING ORGANIC SEED

This family-owned Vermont retailer (highmowingseeds.com) supplies gardeners with high-quality certified-organic vegetable, herb and flower seed. In 2010 they're adding:

### 'Copia' tomato

This is a new must-have for heirloom gardeners. Sweet, large beefsteak tomatoes show golden yellow and candy red stripes. Fun to look at and good to eat.

### 'Midnight Lightning' zucchini

This is the first zucchini to be developed at High Mowing's farm. Single-stemmed, nearly spineless plants quickly produce long, slender zucchinis with an almost black coloring. Has shown good disease resistance.

### 'Dragon' carrot

With its crazy colors, this carrot is a hit with children. 'Dragon' has deep purple skin, orange flesh and a yellow core. It has a nutty, slightly spicy flavor and good hardiness. This is a selection improved by carrot breeder Dr. John Navazio.

### 'Ruby Streaks' mustard green

Deeply lobed and lacy burgundy leaves wave above bright green stems. This is a quick-growing plant whose best color shows when seeds are sown in summer and fall. Adds a spicy flavor and rosy color to salads and stir fry.

### 'Watermelon' radish

Bright pink flesh, white skin and green shoulders set this Chinese radish apart. It has a mild sweet flavor. It grows best in the fall. This variety is also known as 'Red Meat' and 'Roseheart'; in China it's called *shinrimei*, which means beauty in the heart.



*Escholzia californica* 'Dairy Maid'



*Rudbeckia x hirta* 'Cherry Brandy'



*Helianthus annuus* 'Peach Passion'



*Phaseolus vulgaris* 'Trionfo Violetto'



*Raphanus sativus caudatus*



*Begonia boliviensis* 'Bonfire Scarlet'



*Rhododendron* 'Trocadero'



*Rhododendron* 'Polarnacht'



*Coreopsis tinctoria* 'Roulette'



*Cosmos* 'Snow Puff'

## BOTANICAL INTERESTS

Botanical Interest (botanicalinterests.com) was started by Curtis Jones and Judy Seaborn in 1995. Varieties have not been genetically modified and they have a line of certified-organic seeds. Packages carry extensive sowing/growing information—their goal is to educate customers. New in 2010:

### *Escholzia californica* 'Dairy Maid'

This California poppy blooms in an assortment of baby yellow, butter yellow and soft apricot yellow. 'Dairy Maid' makes a nice 6- to 12-inch-tall groundcover. Often grown as an annual, California poppies are perennial in Zones 7 and warmer.

### *Rudbeckia x hirta* 'Cherry Brandy'

Three-inch cherry red flowers with chocolate brown eyes mark an incredible color breakthrough. Like most black-eyed Susans, this has excellent drought, heat and poor-soil tolerance. Two feet tall. Full sun to part shade. Zones 4 to 9.

### *Helianthus annuus* 'Peach Passion'

A compact sunflower, with three- or four-inch peachy yellow blooms on four-foot stems. A must for cut-flower gardens. Full sun. Annual.

### *Phaseolus vulgaris* 'Trionfo Violetto'

'Trionfo Violetto' is an heirloom pole bean with a sweet and nutty flavor. Slim purple beans follow pretty lavender flowers. Train its six- to eight-foot vines upward. Full sun.

### *Raphanus sativus caudatus*

This is a relative of familiar radishes that produces aerial edible seedpods. Grow in summer, after regular radishes are done. Plants can grow three to five feet; full sun.

## SELECTA FIRST CLASS

This company (firstclassplants.com) specializes in flowering bedding plants such as New Guinea impatiens, zonal geraniums and petunias, breeding and testing new cultivars then supplying them to retailers. In 2010 they are introducing:

### *Begonia boliviensis* 'Bonfire Scarlet'

Fiery red blooms hang from red-edged rich green foliage on this new begonia. It has a bushy habit, reaching two to three feet tall and wide in the ground outside (smaller indoors or in containers). It tolerates heat and cold better than most begonias and takes full sun to part shade. Zones 9 to 11.

## BRIGGS NURSERY

Briggs Nursery (briggsnursery.com) is the nation's largest producer and grower of rhododendrons and an industry leader in woody ornamental production. Two new rhodies for 2010 have exceptional color; Dan Meier, production manager, notes that true red is difficult to find in cold-hardy rhododendrons.

### *Rhododendron* 'Trocadero'

Large vivid red trusses and shiny dark green foliage make a statement. Bred from very hardy parents, it offers compact growth, reaching three feet tall and four feet wide in ten years. Zone 5.

### *Rhododendron* 'Polarnacht'

This cultivar's ruffled flowers are a rich purple with spotted red throats. They bloom in clusters of 12 to 14. The shrub grows to three feet tall and six feet wide in 10 years. Zone 6.

## SELECT SEEDS

Select Seeds (selectseeds.com) is a retail catalog that sells flower seeds, plants and bulbs, including heirloom varieties and new but old-fashioned cultivars. In 2010 they're bringing forth:

### *Coreopsis tinctoria* 'Roulette'

This tickseed blooms from late summer into autumn. The flowers have rich brownish red petals as well as an inner ring of yellow petals. They open from tight brownish purple buds. Grow in full sun. Annual.

### *Cosmos* 'Snow Puff'

'Snow Puff' is an apt name for these cushy cosmos. The fringed double petals form thick white blooms with golden yellow centers. Flowering is best toward the end of the summer, because it likes shorter days. A two- to three-foot-tall plant for full sun. Annual.