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MANAGEMENT

# New Plant Payilion

Summer Edition



# Briggs Nursery Ad

## By popular demand: SUMMER EDITION

**W**e heard your voices. You want to hear about more new plants.

That works out perfect, because there are plenty of breeders, developers and marketers of new plants that want to tell you about all their wonderful new varieties.

So, by popular demand, Nursery Management launched the first ever Summer Edition of its New Plant Pavilion. And this one is packed with great new trees, shrubs, vines and perennials.

I first started with this magazine back in 1994. Since then we've run plenty of new variety sections, editions and supplements. For me, it's always entertaining to look back at these and see which varieties made it, and which didn't.

Back in 2000, there was a rather inconspicuous description of a new rose that was an All-America Rose Selection winner. Like many other new roses, it promised disease resistance and a floriferous nature.

Well that inconspicuous new rose just happened to be 'Knock Out,' which has taken the universe by storm.

### Big winners

2001 introductions to make big impacts were Sunrise abelia, Dura-Heat riverbirch, 'Sixteen Candles' clethra and Limelight hydrangea. I would plant any one of these plants in my yard today.

In 2002 we introduced the market to Bosque lacebark elm and 'Snow Pink' Indian hawthorn, now two staples in the landscape market in the South.

In 2003 there was Orange Meadowbrite coneflower. Was it the greatest coneflower? Not by today's standards, but it was the first hybrid coneflower on the market to feature a novel flower color (orange) outside the typical purple or white.

There have been more than 500,000 (my estimate) hybrid *Echinacea* cultivars released since then, each with unique flower colors, shapes and forms. There are two in this Summer Edition. So you can definitely say Orange Meadowbrite opened the gate.

### Who will make the cut

But more importantly, as I look through back issues, I see new varieties that didn't make it. And that leaves me curious.

Were these plants dogs? Were they under tested and didn't perform? Or were they under marketed? Did the breeders not get the word out?

Or were they just the wrong plants at the wrong time? Was a great new plant released just prior to that species being put under scrutiny by environmental groups for its invasive nature? Or maybe that plant was just out of style at the time.

But make no mistake about it, new plants are the lifeblood of our industry. Take a look at what's new this summer. Here's hoping that these will all become staples for our industry down the road.

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# New Plant Pavilion

## Summer Edition

**A**gapanthus Briggs Plant Propagators' new *Agapanthus* 'Black Pantha' has florets so intensely dark violet-blue that they appear

almost black. Flower buds put on a display long before the flowers open in mid- to late summer, uniformly standing atop stems 3 feet above the clean, gray-green,

straplike foliage.

It was selected by Graham Morrison as a seedling of *A. praecox* ssp. *orientalis* and stood out for its rich, dark flower colors. It's hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 7 and grows best in full sun and well drained soils.

It's suitable for mass plantings, mixed borders, specimen plantings and containers and is suitable for cut-flower production.

Briggs Plant Propagators is offering *Agapanthus* × 'Summer Skies.' This perennial features large clusters of striped blue flowers over rich-green foliage.

*Agapanthus* 'Black Pantha.'



It creates a powerful display when planted in mass, and is striking as a stand-alone plant in containers. It's easy to grow and pest free, making it a sure hit with homeowners and commercial landscapers alike.

Mature size is 24 inches high and wide. Flower scapes can reach 36 inches.

It's hard to Zone 7 and grows best in full to part sun. The foliage is semi-evergreen and plant forms basal clumps.

### Anemone

Blooms of Bressingham's new **Pretty Lady** series of fall-blooming anemones includes varieties that are floriferous and have dwarf habits.

'Pretty Lady Diana' is single petaled with rich, dark-pink flowers. 'Pretty Lady Emily' has double, light-pink flowers. 'Pretty Lady Susan' is a classic single with medium-pink flowers.

These plants have marked garden and container performance over traditional, taller varieties. They grow just 16 inches tall and 20 inches wide. Flowers are 2 inches across and bloom in showy masses.

They're hardy to Zones 5-9.

Anemones are long-lived garden plants and ideal container candidates. Mix with other fall-flowering perennials including mums, hypericum and helianthus.



Top: *Agapanthus* 'Summer Skies.' Right: *Anemone* 'Pretty Lady Diana.' Bottom: *Thuja* Fire Chief ('Congabe').

#### Arborvitae

Conard-Pyle Co.'s new **Thuja Fire Chief** ('Congabe') boasts golden foliage with red tips that turn deeper red in the cold fall to winter months. Its finely textured foliage resembles that of *Chamaecyparis*, giving it a fuller appearance.

Fire Chief maintains a nice, rounded habit for a well pruned look. Compared to other *Thuja*, splitting is minimal, adding to Fire Chief's care-free nature.

#### Bayberry

LCN Selections' **Myrica pensylvanica Bobbee** ('Bobzam') is a compact variety selected for its habit and dense, mounded form.

Foliage is darker, wavier, glossier and larger than the species. It has attractive, pewter-gray, aromatic fruit

that remains attractive late summer through winter and into early spring. It grows in acidic soils and wet or dry sites.

It grows 6 feet high and 6-8 feet wide.

#### Boxwood

Conard-Pyle Co.'s **Buxus 'Highlander'** is easily one of the fastest-growing boxwoods on the market, putting on as much as 24-30 inches of new growth per year. 'Highlander' also has a distinct, upright, pyramidal habit.

Foliage is dark-green, like *B. sempervirens*, but with slightly larger leaves. It's hardy to Zones 5-9, with full cold hardiness and heat testing still ongoing.

#### Camellia

Monrovia's **Camellia sasanqua Pink Yuletide**

('MonDel') is a sport of the extremely popular red Yuletide camellia. Its flowers are pink, centered with bright-yellow stamens.

It's fragrant and a beautiful addition to the winter garden. It's an excellent choice for a hedge or screen, espalier or border shrub.

It's hardy to Zones 7-10.

#### Centaurea

**Centaurea montana 'Black Sprite'** from Skagit Gardens has silky, black flower petals that form spidery starbursts that are silhouetted against sturdy foliage. The gray-green leaves have an attractive silvery sheen.

Low and bushy, 'Black Sprite' is drought tolerant and easy to grow almost anywhere. It's hardy to Zone 3 and blooms May through June. It grows 14 inches high and spreads 24 inches.

It's unique, basic, black flower color can be accessorized with almost anything for a stunning display in beds, borders and bouquets.

#### Coreopsis

Conard-Pyle Co.'s **Coreopsis Crème Caramel** ('Novcorcar') has copper-brown flowers that deepen to a reddish-orange in cooler temperatures. The finely textured foliage can soften perennial borders and create excellent mass plantings.



Top left: Centaurea 'Black Sprite.' Top right: Buxus 'Highlander.' Bottom left: Camellia sasanqua Pink Yuletide. Bottom right: Coreopsis Crème Caramel.



Myrica pensylvanica Bobbee.

The plant's compact habit also makes it well suited for container gardens. It blooms over a long period and reaches 1.5 feet high and 2 feet wide. Foliage is delicate and medium green.

#### **Echinacea**

Chicagoland Grows' Echinacea 'Burgundy Starburst' is the culmination of five generations of breeding over 10 years, including three species; *E. laevigata*, *E. purpurea* and *E. tenesseeensis*. The convoluted ancestry no doubt is the source of the unusual traits seen in 'Burgundy Starburst.'

This plant has good vigor and stout stems, but is less than 18 inches wide, making it one of the most compact coneflowers on the marketplace. Stems remain rigid even with container-grown plants.

Flowers are deep burgundy

in spring and fall, and still display some color in the heat of the summer.

Smallish leaves are attractive and glossy green, with red midveins in colder months. It's a long-blooming selection, and the beet-red ray flowers are upturned, like *E. tenesseeensis*, and individually fused into quills. 'Burgundy Starburst' has been stable through four years of field evaluation and three cycles of tissue culture.

Darwin Perennials **Double Scoop** series of echinaceas include varieties with large, double flowers sporting eye-catching colors.

With clean foliage and brilliant blossoms, they make for stunning garden displays. Plants are well branched and hardy to Zones 5-9. They reach 30 inches high and 28 inches wide.

The Double Scoop series

includes Bubble Gum (pink), Raspberry (dark pink) and Orangeberry.

Darwin Perennials'

**Sombrero** echinacea series includes varieties with bright, rich colors on well-branched and floriferous plants. These sturdy, compact plants were bred from selections overwintered in the north. Each is hardy to at least Zone 5, contrary to many of the new brightly-colored coneflowers on the market (typically hardy to just Zone 6).

The Sombrero series includes Hot Coral, Salsa Red and Sandy Yellow.

#### **Hebe**

Ball Ornamentals' *Hebe* 'Grace Kelly' has limestone-gray foliage with sophisticated jade undertones. Its dark-purple stems form lightning-bolt shapes across the leaves.

Its abundant, large flowers are royal purple in summer and autumn. It's hardy to Zones 8-10 and a great plant



Left: Echinacea 'Burgundy Starburst.' Center: Echinacea Double Scoop Bubble Gum. Right: Echinacea Sombrero Hot Coral.

for the West Coast. It grows 3 feet high and wide in full sun. Hebes are compact, evergreen plants with unusual, eye-catching flowers that attract butterflies.

#### Honeysuckle

Ball Ornamentals' *Lonicera periclymenum* **Peaches and Cream** ('Caprilia Imperial') is a new honeysuckle with big, tropical-looking flowers on a cold-hardy plant. It's compact and makes a gorgeous display in the landscape, on a trellis or as a groundcover.

Exotic, pink-and-white bicolor florets make the flowers stand out. It blooms throughout the summer and is evergreen in milder climates.

It's hardy to Zones 4-9 and grows 5-6 feet high.

#### Hydrangea

Ball Ornamentals' *Hydrangea paniculata* **Fire and Ice** lends three distinct seasons of color to the landscape. It displays creamy-white flowers in early summer, pink in mid-summer, and matures to deep red in autumn.

"This one is a game changer," said Pete Kruger, Ball Ornamentals general manager, "Testing and trialing in North America confirmed the color characteristics and impressive cold hardiness.

It's hardy to Zones 3-8 and grows 5 feet high.

Novalis' new *H. paniculata* **Mystical Flame**

('Bokratorch') is one of the first paniculata hydrangeas to bloom in spring. Creamy-white panicles quickly turn burgundy red at the onset of cool weather. They continue their performance until frost, long after most flowering

shrubs have met their peak.

The flowers evoke a feminine, lacy feel but it's a tough customer in the landscape. It's also smaller in stature, reaching just 3½-4 feet high and wide, make it more versatile for most smaller, modern landscapes.

It's hardy to Zones 5-9.

#### Kalmia

Briggs Plant Propagators has released '**Starburst**,' a new selection of *Kalmia latifolia* f. *myrtifolia/fuscata*. Originally introduced by Broken Arrow Nursery, this plant has unique, star-shaped flowers that highlight the glossy, dark-green foliage.

Deep-pink flower buds put on a show through late spring and open to a galaxy of color in early summer. Each star-shaped corolla is deep-pink on the outside and carries a broad, cinnamon-maroon band on the inside. They have white eyes, white picotee edges and pretty

white stamens.

Similar to 'Minuet,' this new plant forms a nice mound with a spreading habit. It reaches 5 feet high and 6 feet wide in 10 years. It's hardy to Zones 5-9.

It grows best in acidic, well-drained soils with good air porosity. Plant in full sun, but avoid overly hot locations.

#### Maple

J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co. released *Acer saccharum* **Flashfire** ('JFS-Caddo2'), which explodes with color in autumn. Dark-green leaves turn brilliant red, and this tree's lineage could make it one of the best trees for fall color in hot regions.

It was derived from the same Caddo Mountain seed source in Western Oklahoma as Autumn Splendor and John Pair Maples, providing superior heat tolerance and adaptability to drought. It has better mildew resistance, brighter fall colors and improved vigor and form.

It evolved on rocky, arid, limestone soils and is hardy to Zone 4.

J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.'s **Northern Glow** maple (*A. pseudosieboldianum* × *palmatum* 'Hasselkus') has refined, deeply cut leaves that emerge bronze-green and mature to medium green.

The autumn foliage glows bright orange red to deep red. It was selected by Ed Hasselkus and combines the cold hardiness of Korean



Top: *H. paniculata* Mystical Flame. Bottom left: *Acer saccharum* Flashfire. Bottom right: *Kalmia latifolia* f. *myrtifolia/fuscata* 'Starburst.'



Left: Hebe 'Grace Kelly.' Center: *Lonicera periclymenum* Peaches and Cream. Right: *Hydrangea paniculata* Fire and Ice.

maple with the grace of Japanese maple. It's a perfect choice in climates too cold for *A. palmatum*.

It's hardy to Zone 4 with an upright and spreading habit. It matures at 20 feet high and 24 feet wide.

#### Pomegranate

Southern Living Plant Collection's *Punica granatum* 'Orange Blossom Special' is a new dwarf pomegranate that reaches just 2-3 feet high and wide. This plant, from Plant Development Services Inc., is compact, drought resistant and requires little area. It produces rich orange flowers spring to frost, and it's an excellent addition to gardens or patio containers.

It grows in full sun to partial shade and is hardy to Zones 7b to 10.

#### Rhododendron

The Southern Living Plant Collection now includes a series of rhododendrons bred to perform well in the Deep South. The **Southgate** series from Plant Development Services Inc. performs equally well in traditional rhododendron-growing areas as regions with high summer heat and humidity.

The plants are hardy to Zones 6-9 and grow roughly 3-4 feet high and wide.

The series includes Brandi (deep-pink buds and pink ruffled flowers), Breezy (mid-pink buds and white flowers with a maroon blotch), Divine (light-pink buds and white flowers with purple flecks), Grace (deep-pink buds and white flowers) and Radiance (deep lavender buds and light-purple flowers).

#### Scabiosa

Skagit Gardens' new **Scabiosa Mariposa Violet** has large, deep-violet, pincushion flowers that are fully double on sturdy stems. This compact perennial produces loads of blossoms above bushy foliage from June to October.

With improved flower size and count, stem caliper and plant vigor, its flowers are 50 percent larger than 'Butterfly Blue' with higher petal count and more vibrant color.

Foliage reaches 10-12 inches high and flowers top out at 18 inches. It spreads 12 inches. Hardiness (estimated at Zone 5) is still being verified.

#### Sausage vine

Monrovia's *Holboellia coriacea* 'Cathedral Gem' is a durable, easy-to-grow evergreen vine. It has glossy, trifoliate leaves and clusters of white, highly perfumed flowers in late winter and early spring.

Its large, lavender-pink, sausage-shaped fruit make it an unusual choice for a trellis, arbor or fence. It's also attractive when allowed to wind through large shrubs or trees.

It's hardy to Zones 6-10.

#### Weigelia

Novalis' **Weigela Rainbow Sensation** ('Kolmagira') is a fascinating new variegated form. Before the first flowers appear, this shrub still lights up the landscape with its leaves containing dark-green centers and chartreuse margins.

The plant also produces clusters of soft-pink, funnel-shaped flowers bloom in profusion in May. Gently arching stems add grace to the garden with a rainbow of color on this compact shrub. Stems can be cut for flower arrangements.

A tough plant, Weigela is especially suited for urban environments where it performs beautifully with minimal care. Extremely hardy, plants thrive in a wide range of growing conditions.

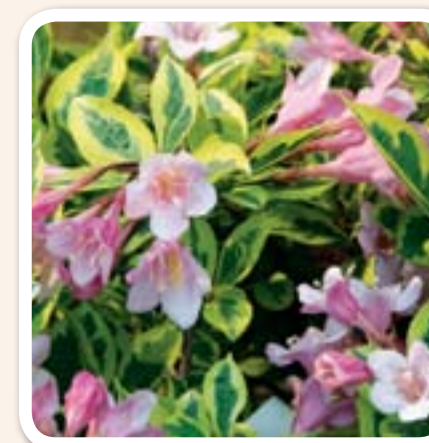
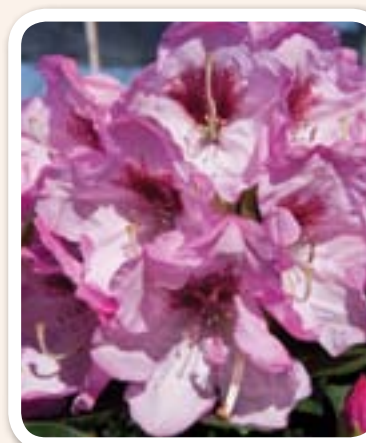
It's hardy to Zones 4-8 and grows 4 feet high. It grows in full sun and prefers moist, well-drained soil.

#### Yedda hawthorn

Monrovia's *Rhaphiolepis umbellata* **Southern Moon** (RutRaph1) was selected by the University of Georgia's John Ruter after close to a decade of evaluation.

This patented plant features exceptional disease resistance and a compact, self-mounding habit, remaining just 5-6 feet tall at maturity. It has dark-green, glossy leaves with wavy margins. An abundance of white flowers appear in spring on new growth.

It's an excellent foundation plant hardy to Zones 7-10. It's evergreen and will reach 6-8 feet wide with age.



Top left: Rhododendron Southgate Radiance. Top right: Weigela Rainbow Sensation. Bottom: *Holboellia coriacea* 'Cathedral Gem.'



Left: Northern Glow maple. Center: *Punica granatum* 'Orange Blossom Special.' Right: *Scabiosa Mariposa Violet*.



*Rhipsolepis umbellata* Southern Moon.

## Contacts.

**Ball Horticultural Co.**, [www.ballhort.com](http://www.ballhort.com); (630) 231-3600.

**Blooms of Bressingham**, [www.bloomsofbressinghamplants.com](http://www.bloomsofbressinghamplants.com); (800) 321-9573.

**Briggs Plant Propagators**, [www.briggsnursery.com](http://www.briggsnursery.com); (800) 444-1515.

**Chicagoland Grows**, [www.chicagolandgrows.org](http://www.chicagolandgrows.org); (847) 835-8244.

**Conard-Pyle Co.**, [www.conard-pyle.com](http://www.conard-pyle.com); (610) 869-2426.

**Darwin Perennials**, [www.darwinperennials.com](http://www.darwinperennials.com); (800) 879-2255

**J. Frank Schmidt & Son Co.**, [www.jfschmidt.com](http://www.jfschmidt.com); (503) 663-4128.

**LCN Selections**, [www.lakecountynursery.com](http://www.lakecountynursery.com); (800) 522-5253.

**Monrovia**, [www.monrovia.com](http://www.monrovia.com); (800) 999-9321.

**Novalis**, [www.plantsthatwork.com](http://www.plantsthatwork.com).

**Southern Living Plant Collection**, [www.southernlivingplants.com](http://www.southernlivingplants.com).

**Skagit Gardens**, [www.skagitgardens.com](http://www.skagitgardens.com); (360) 424-6144.

# North Creek Nurseries Ad