

Digger

APRIL 2019

Remarkable annuals

PAGE 17

The value of the green label

PAGE 25

Threats to conifers

PAGE 33

PUBLISHED BY



OREGON
ASSOCIATION OF
NURSERIES™

REMARKABLE

Remarkable annuals

BY TRACY ILENE MILLER

ANNUAL BEDDING AND garden plant sales represent approximately 70 percent of the total U.S. bedding and garden category, according to the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Services, totaling \$1.29 billion out of \$1.86 billion wholesale.

Annuals pick up where perennials leave off, providing colorful foliage and flower displays inside the season. Customers are continuously searching for something to perk up their dark corners, their doorways, their hanging baskets or borders.

With that in mind, we shine a spotlight on annuals that not only do all that, but are reliable and prolific growers that customers can depend on.

Blooms its heart out

Celosia argentea 'Intenz™ Classic'
(above) has an unusual and

unique color pattern on the foliage, so even before its prodigious early blooming, the plant is interesting, said Monica Fossi of **Yoshitomi Bros. Inc.** (West Linn, Oregon). It attracts bees, is heat tolerant and low maintenance, and can be used in the ground or containers.

Kyle Peterson of **Pacific Crest Nursery** (Woodburn, Oregon) said *Celosia* 'Dragon's Breath' is a rare offering, with its dark foliage and almost neon, long-lasting 24-inch plumes, that makes a great summer shoulder plant at garden centers. "It really has a different look, and any time you change the foliage color, it usually does a good job of drawing interest from the consumer," Peterson said. Plus, it's easy to grow, sun-loving and long-lasting.

The characteristics of the prodigious bloomer *Coreopsis* 'Cherry Pie' (below) warranted its introduction, said Dan Heims of **Terra Nova Nurseries Inc.** (Canby, Oregon). The deep red daisies with overlapping petals sit atop a rounded cushion that defies the reputation of past coreopsis, which showed at times mounds of browning flowers or tall, sparse flower spikes.

"We breed for a self-cleaning nature," Heims said. "When the flowers fade, they retract, and newer flowers push through."

A tender perennial used as an annual, *Plectranthus* 'Velvet Elvis', is being lauded for its bushy form good for containers like *P.* 'Mona Lavender', but with double the number of flowers.

"The floral display lasts for >>>

Coreopsis 'Cherry Pie'

PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRA NOVA NURSERIES INC.

Remarkable annuals

Coleus TERRA NOVA® 'Electric Slide'

PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRA NOVA NURSERIES INC.

months, rather than being a flash in the pan like you get with other plants," Heims said.

Five years of breeding yielded a versatile plant that works inside during winter, where people can enjoy the black stems and aromatic foliage. It then can be introduced back outside in spring in part- to full-shade, where native hummingbirds enjoy the long, tubular flowers.

Hold the pinching

Coleus TERRA NOVA® 'Electric Slide' (above) is remarkably self-branching, requiring no pinching. "Just put it in a pot, and stand back," Heims said. Place it in the garden or landscape to witness a color combination that is stunning in both shady and sunny situations.

"People don't know these are quite sun tolerant and can be used in an industrial setting as a color blast," he said.

The canary yellow foliage contrasts

with bright red veins framed by an emerald-green edge. Selected for its outstanding foliage, this 23-inch by 36-inch *coleus* nonetheless puts out a modest display of short violet-blue flowers late in the season.

The FlameThrower™ *Coleus* series has a compact habit that won't "eat" the container when mixed with other plants, according to Fossi. They sport delicate foliage and unique colors. FlameThrower Habanero is a deep rusty orange with an almost purple vein, and FlameThrower Spiced Curry is chartreuse and burgundy. They're not as lush in full sunlight, she said, but they hold up, so they can be used in either sun or shade, and they don't require pinching. "They finish off just fine," Fossi said.

Two colors for the price of one

"*Bidens* are one of those flowers that have been completely written off," Fossi said. However, she thinks they deserve attention, especially the newer *Bidens ferulifolia* 'Bee Bold' and *Bidens ferulifolia* 'Bee Alive', which are compact, well-branched, self-cleaning and play well with others.

Fossi likes them as groundcovers and in larger mixed containers or hanging baskets, where the bicolor red and yellow flowers and the pink and purple-striped flowers of *Bidens ferulifolia* 'Pretty in Pink™' bloom from early spring through summer.

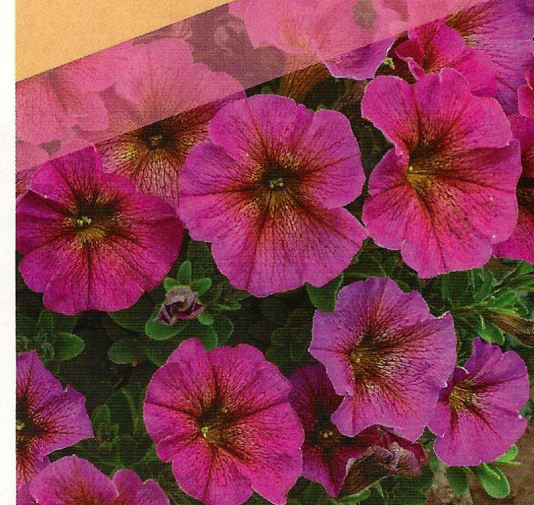
SuperCal® × *Petchoa* is a petunia and calibrachoa hybrid the size of a mini petunia (but not sticky like petunia) on a self-cleaning, nicely mounding plant with a spreading habit good for use as a groundcover and in containers. It comes in warm colors, some of which you don't see in petunia, according to Fossi. With its smaller flower, it holds up to spring rain and is more heat and cold tolerant than its parents.

Fossi went on to say that although it's been out a few years, the reason to take a second look are the recent color releases, which include SuperCal Premium Cinnamon, with burnt orange and hints of yellow, and SuperCal Premium Sunray Pink (below), with a yellow throat and orange veining.

Another profuse bloomer, with purple and red flowers, *Cuphea purpurea* 'Firecracker' is incredibly attractive to hummingbirds and excellent for filling in containers. It provides great texture and is also heat and drought toler- >>

SuperCal Premium Sunray Pink

PHOTO COURTESY OF BALL SEED



Nutrien
Solutions

Visit your local Nutrien Solutions location today.

Cody Plath
Cornelius Branch | 503.640.2371

Remarkable annuals

appeal and a profusion of flowers with bright spots on flowers in flaming shades on tidy 10-inch to 12-inch plants. She has noticed when customers see it at the retail store, they want to take it home immediately.

"It's a fun, spotted flower with a low mounding habit that makes it suitable for edging a border or spilling out over the edge of a container," Geschwill said.

Monkey flowers like sunny tops and slightly wet bottoms. "(They) just don't get the bench space that the other plants do," she said. "They are a relatively easy care, low-growing, although not a ground-cover, plant that will spread."

A bright spot for shade

Begonia T-REX™ 'St. Nick' brightens shady spots with its vibrant contrast of green, pink-red and spotted-white star-shaped foliage tightly and vigorously and

generously displayed as if it had been sumptuously hand-arranged. In Heims' experience, the original rex went through a dormant period, and this new series is a more consistent grower with improved genetics that "reinvigorated" the plant.

"These have more crowns, are fuller, and for the grower, will fill out faster, with less time in the greenhouse," Heims said.

'St. Nick' goes from plug to saleable plant in six weeks, has limited fertilizer needs and needs good drainage. Attractive pink flowers bloom in fall and winter, as an additional bonus.

The *Begonia* T-REX™ 'Stardust' (above) leaf shows a spiral in green, burgundy and violet, like an ocean wave, a surfer's dream.

"Zoom in on the foliage, and the white stars throughout the plant — it's almost stained like a church window.



That intrigues people. It's more show for the money," Heims said. "It's a much better and stronger plant."

With large leaves, and a bushy habit, this improved rex begonia has double the leaves. Gardeners just need to know that you can dry it out, and revive it when necessary with water only.

Geschill believes most people don't get super excited about begonias, but the

The Power Of Kubota!



RTV-X900G-H

- 21.6 Gross HP† 3-Cylinder Kubota Diesel Engine
- Variable Hydro Transmission (VHT-X)
- Standard 4-Wheel Drive
- 60:40 Split Bench Seats Provide Hours of Riding Comfort



R430RI

- 47.6 Gross HP† Kubota Diesel Engine
- Load Sensing Transmission



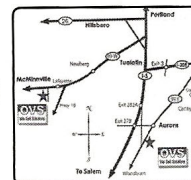
OVS MCMINNVILLE
2700 ST. JOSEPH RD.
MCMINNVILLE, OR
(503) 435-2700

OVS AURORA
19658 HWY. 99 E.
HUBBARD, OR
(971) 216-0111

STORE
HOURS:
Mon-Fri: 8-5
Sat: 8-Noon

www.ovs.com • 800-653-2216

Full Service Shops with Mobile Capabilities!



† For complete warranty, safety and product information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the product operator's manual. Power (HP/KW) and other specifications are based on various standards or recommended practices. K1252-21-142376-1