

Greenhouse[®]

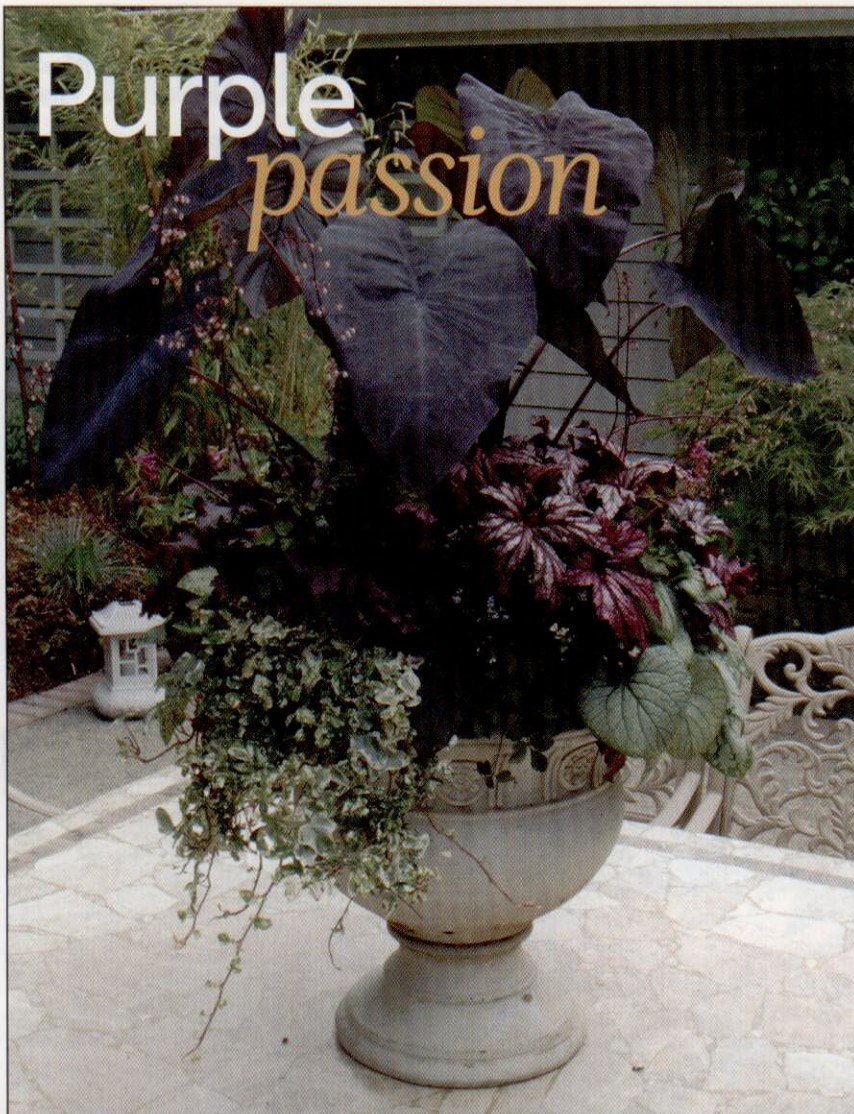
MANAGEMENT & PRODUCTION



Doug Cole,
D.S. Cole Growers

Sustainability is an evolutionary process p. 10





Purple passion



- a. *Colocasia* 'Black Magic'
- b. *Brunnera* 'Jack Frost'
- c. *Begonia* 'Benitochiba'
- d. *Heuchera* 'Black Beauty'
- e. *Hedera helix* 'Henrietta'

Photo courtesy of www.terranovanurseries.com

By Terra Nova Nurseries

This exotic design from Terra Nova Nurseries will work well in shady areas, and all the plants in this combination prefer moist conditions. Plants include *Colocasia* 'Black Magic,' *brunnera* 'Jack Frost,' *begonia* 'Benitochiba,' *heuchera* 'Black Beauty' and *Hedera helix* 'Henrietta.'

One of the few true blacks of the plant world, 'Black Magic' grows up to 30 inches high and wide. The huge, heart-shaped leaves are conspicuously veined and grow up to 2 feet long.

Brunnera 'Jack Frost' features silver, heart-shaped foliage edged in green with green veining. The leaves increase in size from spring to summer. The blue flowers resemble forget-me-nots.

The large leaves of *begonia* 'Benitochiba' are a metallic, rose-red color. It's shrubby and self-branching with pink flowers and an upright cane stem.

Heuchera 'Black Beauty' is a striking plant with dark, glossy ruffled leaves. The leaves are somewhat upright catching sun from any direction. It has a mounding habit that grows up to 10 inches high and 16 inches wide.

'Henrietta' features splashes of vibrant white variegation across dense foliage. The variegation is an interesting contrast to the coral-red stems.

For more: Terra Nova Nurseries, (800) 215-9450; www.terranovanurseries.com.

Production

- *Colocasia* 'Black Magic' grows best in a growing medium with moisture retentive properties and a pH of 5.6-6.2. Start bulbs in a warm greenhouse in the fall. Provide moderate to heavy irrigation and moderate fertilization.

- *Brunnera* 'Jack Frost' prefers a well-drained, moist, organic growing medium. Maintain a pH of 5.6-6.8. Let it dry slightly between watering and provide moderate nutrition. Winter dormancy is required for growth and flowering.

- *Begonia* 'Benitochiba' is easier to grow than a Rex begonia because it will grow in lower humidity and temperatures. Use

a growing medium with average porosity and a pH of 6.0-7.0. It's a moderate to heavy feeder and grows best when allowed to dry slightly between watering.

- *Heuchera* 'Black Beauty' grows best in a moist, but well-drained growing medium low in peat. Maintain a pH of 6.0-7.0. Allow it to dry moderately between watering. It's a moderate to light feeder. Vernalization of 12 weeks is required for optimum flowering.

- *Hedera helix* 'Henrietta' requires a well-drained soilless mix with a pH of 6.0-7.0. Provide moderate to high light levels. Grow at 70°F-75°F daytime and 62°F-65°F at night.