

COUNTRY  
ALMANAC® 122

EXCLUSIVE PLANS! 35 FAVORITE COMBOS

# CONTAINER GARDENS™ 2009

175 New  
Ideas  
Sun and  
Shade

ONE-POT  
HARVEST  
Fruits,  
Veggies &  
Herbs

‘Special Effect’ Stunners  
Layered Bulbs • Mini Lily Pond  
Lush Window Boxes

100 Best  
Plants For  
Containers





## THE FUTURE LOOKS ROSY



**Reinhard Noack is the CEO and chief hybridizer of Flower Carpet Roses, known for its line of world class groundcover roses with unsurpassed natural disease resistance.**

The "Next Generation" Flower Carpet roses, bred by Reinhard Noack, are raising the bar for toughness, color, flower power, and a long, virtually continuous bloom season. In 2009, Flower Carpet Amber makes its debut, bringing exciting color and a light rose fragrance.

**Q. What's coming next in your work?**

**A.** In nature, fragrant roses are generally more susceptible to disease. We're working to isolate the fragrance in disease-resistant varieties.

**Q. How will advances in technology affect rose breeding?**

**A.** Rose breeding is a process of decades, not years. It is still done by traditional methods. The biggest technical innovation is using computer models to predict traditional hybridizing probabilities.

**Q. What's the greatest hybridizing breakthrough you have made?**

**A.** Of course the toughness and disease resistance my father achieved with the original Flower Carpet was an extraordinary thing. For the past twenty years we have built on that breeding, looking for new attributes, such as colors or fragrance, while increasing the hardiness and natural disease resistance.



FLOWER CARPET ROSES

Flower Carpet Amber and other new shrub and groundcover roses are drawing a lot of attention. They are crowd pleasers because they are so low maintenance and come in new colors for borders and containers.

Orange, for example, has been a difficult color for disease-resistant groundcover type roses. The new Amber is a very complex shade of amber-apricot-peachy-pink with heavy orange tones in it. In color, now, I am most focused on creating another shade of orange in a deeper, more intense shade.

**Q. What does the future hold for roses?**

**A.** Patented landscape roses will continue to dominate as their high levels of natural disease-resistance, abundant flowers and non-stop blooming give today's gardeners what they want.

## MAKE IT EASY CARE



**Evelyn Phelps, gardening writer and horticulturist with Ortho Company.**

"The trend is definitely toward low maintenance in gardening, and this is especially true for containers," says Evelyn Phelps, flower gardening writer and affiliate horticulturist with Ortho. She believes easy-care container gardening is well within reach of the average gardener with little time to spare.

As she explains, "A little effort at the beginning when choosing plants, pots and potting mix will lead to wonderful results in the summer." Here are her tips:

"Choose a container on the large size because smaller containers dry out faster," says Phelps, who also stresses the importance

of drainage. "Water left in the base of the pot can lead to root-rot and is a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes. You can buy ready-made pots to use as inserts in ornamental pots for drainage," she says.

"When planting, choose a soil-less potting mix that contains slow-release fertilizer and is a bit heavier," she advises.

Low water use plants such as *Yucca gloriosa* 'Variegata', *Kalanchoe beharens* and agave in bright yellow pots are ideal for busy gardeners.



GAP PHOTOS / FRIEDRICH STRAUSS



PERENNIAL RESOURCE

Foliage-only perennials, like this ornamental grass are valued for their mass of complementary hues and textures, making dramatic displays in both hanging and ground vessels.



## HIGH TIME FOR FOLIAGE

**Chuck Pavlich is a horticulturist with Terra Nova Nurseries and is known for his outstanding achievements with foliage perennials.**

Hanging baskets bring gorgeous gardens to eye level, and no one knows this better than Chuck Pavlich, a horticulturist at Terra Nova Nurseries near Portland, OR. He loves to experiment with perennials in hanging baskets, and his company has introduced dozens of new heucheras, tiarellas, begonias and other plants known more for their fancy leaves than for their flowers. For the past few years, Pavlich and a colleague have planted 24-inch hanging baskets with foliage-only perennials, with spectacular results. The eye-popping containers hang from the branches of a fine old deodar cedar in the nursery's display garden. "Heucheras are indestructible and foolproof, but almost anything will work in a hanging basket," Pavlich says. "You can try ajuga, agastach, brunnera and campanula." Make room for a few annual flowers if you like, he says, "but don't be limited by what you read somewhere, if you think a plant is going to be fine, just go for it."