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SMART IDEAS FOR INDEPENDENT RETAILERS | MAGAZINE



STAR Players

Show your appreciation
with this collection of
low-cost, high-impact
employee perks, p. 8

VOLUME 17 / NO. 10 / OCTOBER 2011

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SMART IDEAS FOR INDEPENDENT RETAILERS | MAGAZINE



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Brighten YOUR BENCHES

Jazz up your pre-bookings with some hot, new perennial varieties

AGASTACHE

'Blue Boa' from Terra Nova Nurseries produces deep violet blue flower spikes that are long, wide and extremely showy. Foliage height to 24 inches tall and 16 inches wide. Flowering height to 32 inches. It's drought tolerant once established and attracts hummingbirds as well as butterflies. Hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 6-9. www.terranovanurseries.com

AGAVE

Each leaf of *Agave potatorum* 'Cameron Blue' from Rancho Tissue Technologies features amazing curving imprints on the back. The plant forms a lovely open rosette shape with rigid blue leaves graced with large burgundy-tipped fingers. It prefers full sun and can tolerate freezing temperatures. www.ranchotissue.com

BAPTISIA

Proven Winners' new Decadence series includes varieties which were hybridized and selected for their compact habit. They bloom the first year. Plants are hardy in Zones 4-9. 'Blueberry Sundae' has deep indigo blue flowers much more vibrant than *B. australis* and a perfect plant habit. It reaches 3 feet tall and 2½-3 feet wide. 'Cherries Jubilee' features deep maroon buds that open to bicolor maroon and yellow flowers that are held on strong scapes above blue-green foliage. It grows to 2½-3 feet tall and 3 feet wide. 'Dutch Chocolate' produces rich velvety chocolate purple flowers on upright stems above an especially compact mound of foliage. It grows to 2½-3 feet tall and 2 feet wide. 'Lemon Meringue' produces an upright, vase-shaped mound of blue-green foliage

topped with long, charcoal stems and lemon-yellow flowers. It grows to 3 feet tall and wide.

www.provenwinners.com

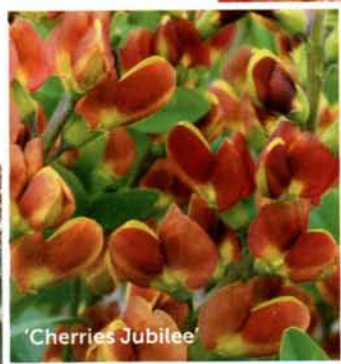
COREOPSIS

The stunning flowers of 'Sweet Marmalade' from Blooms of Bressingham open deep orange, mellowing to soft apricot yellow through the season. No vernalization needed for flowering. Blooms summer into early autumn. Bushy mounded plants grow 10 inches high and 20 inches wide the first year. Hardy in Zones 5-9.

www.bloomsofbressingham.com

DIANTHUS

Barbarini Pink from Syngenta Flowers, Goldsmith Seeds can be programmed to bloom from April through September. It has a uniform habit and blooms



GREEN GOODS

the first year planted. Recommended for fall sales, this variety has great overwintering ability. Hardy to Zone 5. www.syngentaflowersinc.com

ECHINACEA

Darwin Perennials has introduced two new series. The Sombrero series consists of Hot Coral, Salsa Red and Sandy Yellow. Sombrero features sturdy, compact plants with proven hardiness. Plants grow to 22-24 inches tall and 24-26 inches wide. Plants, which flower from June to August, are hardy in Zones 5-9.

www.darwinperennials.com

GAILLARDIA

'Arizona Apricot' from Benary is easy to grow, fills in the pot fast and flowers the first year without vernalization. It blankets the garden with color even under hot and dry conditions. With a well-branched, compact habit, it is easy to produce and displays controlled uniform, plants. Hardy in Zones 2-10. www.benary.com

HEUCHERA

Danziger has added several new varieties to its Kira series. Plants are hardy to Zone 4. Autumn Leaves offers foliage of warm and inviting tones of peach and apricot with a coppery-red underside. It tolerates drought and high temperatures. Purple Rain Forest



Purple Rain Forest



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