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'Little Penny' coreopsis

'Little Penny' coreopsis (*Coreopsis* hybrid) may be small in size, at 8 inches tall and 16 inches wide, but it's big on blooms. And they aren't the usual yellow ones, either. This new variety is covered in coppery orange flowers. When the first flush of blooms is finished, just shear the plant back by about half to get more. 'Little Penny' is only cold-hardy in USDA zones 9 to 11 so it won't overwinter in most gardens, but that's OK. With its numerous flowers and long bloom time, it makes a great annual.

Bottom line Unusual coppery-orange flowers cover this little plant from spring to frost.

Source Local garden centers

The Ever-Blooming Flower Garden



If you yearn for a garden that blooms from spring to fall, check out this new book by Lee Schneller. Using 220 easy-care plants, the author walks you through her five-step process for designing a garden that's always in bloom. The book includes questionnaires, formulas and checklists, along with a chapter on the plants she recommends. Each profile has a photo and basic care instructions. What's nice about this plant list is that there's something for every zone in North America. So no matter where you live, your garden will always be blooming.

Bottom line Follow the advice in this book for a gorgeous flower garden from spring to fall.

Source Local and online bookstores and GardenGateStore.com

Price \$19.95; softcover; 224 pages

did you know?

Tell us what you think!

Vegetable gardening has been getting more popular the past couple of years. So we're wondering if you've just started growing veggies? (Or maybe you've been growing them all along.) Visit our Web site, take our survey and share your vegetable gardening experience. We'll let you know the outcome in an upcoming issue and who knows, you might even see some new stories "sprout" in *Garden Gate* as a result!

The right rose for you

All-America Rose Selections has a new addition to its Web site that helps you choose the right rose for your region. Visit www.rose.org/regions-choice and you'll find a link for the area where you live. There you'll see a list of the past AARS winners that are best for your region. Click on the photo of the rose you like for more information on growing that variety.

Weeds from birdseed?

Researchers at Oregon State University tested 10 brands of wild bird seed mix commonly sold in retail stores. Along with the feed, they found seed from more than 50 species of weeds! In addition, a short-term study looked at what happens when that same bird seed drops to the soil. The results? Between three and 17 species sprouted and grew from those 10 brands. So does this mean you need to stop feeding the birds? Not at all. Here's what you can do to feed your feathered friends without letting weeds take hold:

- Put out seeds that won't sprout, such as sunflower hearts or peanuts.
- Use feed other than seed, such as peanut butter, raisins, mealworms or plain suet cakes.
- Keep an eye out for sprouting weeds under your feeder and pull them right away.