

Bringing your garden to life

February 2008

# gardening

## HOW-TO

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BONUS FEATURE  
**best new  
plants  
for 2008**

**12**  
*early  
bloomers*

to jump-start  
spring

**jazz up**  
your garden  
with **outdoor  
structures**

**leaves  
of lace**  
fine-textured  
plants add  
mystery and  
drama



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24



28



44

# features

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## LIFESTYLE

### 24 Outdoor Structures

Add personality to your garden with gates, trellises, and other structures.

BY GAIL JOHNSON

## SPECIAL REPORT

### 28 New Varieties

We've chosen this year's best new plants—take a peek and find your own favorites!

COMPILED BY ELIZABETH NOLL

## PLANTS

### 38 Early Bloomers

Get an early start on spring with flowers that bloom while the snow still flies.

BY TERESA O'CONNOR

## On the cover

Lenten rose (*Helleborus orientalis*) is a low-maintenance perennial that blooms in early spring. Photography by Alan & Linda Detrick.

## DESIGN

### 44 Leaves of Lace

Lacy foliage dresses up your garden and softens the edges of beds and borders. Learn how to use these fine-textured friends in your landscape.

BY SUSAN DAVIS PRICE



38

## EDITORIAL QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

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# new varieties 2008

Compiled by **Elizabeth Noll**

Written by **Michelle Leise,**  
**Elizabeth Noll,** and **Amy Sitze**

In 2008, the best new plants are both extravagant and practical. You'll see time-tested species in crazy new colors and classic beauties that have been bred to be tougher.

What do we mean by "new" plants? In this special feature, we list plants that are widely available for the first time in 2008. (In some cases, these plants were introduced earlier to a limited number of gardeners.)

The staff of *Gardening How-To* sifted through hundreds of new varieties to come up with this list, and we think it's an exciting group of plants—in fact, somewhat irresistible. Don't be surprised if some of these great 2008 varieties find their way into your garden this spring!

*Echinacea purpurea*  
'Coconut Lime'

## WebExtra

To see even more new plants, visit  
[www.gardeningclub.com](http://www.gardeningclub.com) and click on WebExtra.



### *Hibiscus moscheutos* 'Stardust'

If you live in a cold climate, you'll love the new hibiscus offerings from Monrovia's Fleming Hybrids collection: 'Stardust' (pictured here), 'Dave Fleming', and 'Strawberries & Cream'. 'Stardust' shows off striking pink blooms 10 to 12 inches in diameter with small red centers and yellow anthers. Green leaves are mottled with wine-colored accents. The compact, low-maintenance plant holds up to drought, wind, and wet conditions.

**Sun:** Full sun

**Soil:** Average to moist

**Height:** 4 feet

**Width:** 4 feet

**Zones:** 4 to 9

**Source:** Local garden centers; see Monrovia Web site for store locator.



### *Lilium* 'Pink Jazz'

Is it a forest or a flower? The towering 6-foot stems of 'Pink Jazz', which carry buckets of fragrant, bright pink blooms, are so stately and sturdy that a crowded bed of these lilies takes on the feel of an enchanted grove. This selection is the offspring of a cross between Oriental and trumpet lilies; it favors its trumpet parent in form, but is hardier and more heat resistant than either of its ancestors. Blooms in July and August.

**Sun:** Full sun in moderate climates; afternoon shade in hot climates.

**Soil:** Average

**Height:** 6 feet

**Width:** 12 inches

**Zones:** 6 to 10; colder with winter mulch

**Source:** B&D Lilies



### *Viola* 'Heartthrob'

This enchanting violet from Terra Nova Nurseries packs a visual punch. Its heart-shaped leaves show off burgundy centers and deep green edges that will enliven the front of flower beds, containers, and garden paths. Small lavender flowers bloom in early spring, but you may not even notice, as the large, showy leaves will demand all of your attention.

**Sun:** Filtered shade; morning sun

**Soil:** Fertile, moist, well-drained

**Height:** 12 inches

**Width:** 8 inches

**Zones:** 5 to 9

**Source:** Local garden centers; see Terra Nova Nurseries Web site for retail sources.

# RESOURCEGUIDE

For information about gardening products, plants, and services featured in this issue, contact the sources on these pages. For direct links to the Web sites listed below, visit [www.gardeningclub.com](http://www.gardeningclub.com) and click on Web Resources.

## Site Specific, page 18

### Resources for Southeast:

**Edible Landscaping**, Afton, VA, 800-524-4156, [www.ediblelandscaping.com](http://www.ediblelandscaping.com).

**Park Seed**, Greenwood, SC, 800-845-3369, [www.parkseed.com](http://www.parkseed.com).

**Possum Creek Herb Farm**, Soddy Daisy, TN, 423-332-0347, [www.possumcreekherb.com](http://www.possumcreekherb.com).

### Resources for Northeast:

**Nourse Farms**, South Deerfield, MA, 413-665-2658, [www.noursefarms.com](http://www.noursefarms.com).

**Territorial Seed Co.**, Cottage Grove, OR, 800-626-0866, [www.territorial-seed.com](http://www.territorial-seed.com).

### Resources for Midwest/Mountain:

**Johnny's Selected Seeds**, Winslow, ME, 877-564-6697, [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com).

### Resources for Pacific Northwest:

**Forestfarm**, Williams, OR, 541-846-7269, [www.forestfarm.com](http://www.forestfarm.com).

**Raintree Nursery**, Morton, WA, 360-496-6400, [www.raintreenursery.com](http://www.raintreenursery.com).

### Resources for Southwest:

**Tripple Brook Farm**, Southamptn, MA, 413-527-4626, [www.tripplebrookfarm.com](http://www.tripplebrookfarm.com).

**Dill's Greenhouse**, Groveport, OH, 614-836-3700, [www.dillsgreenhouse.net](http://www.dillsgreenhouse.net).

## New Varieties 2008, page 28

Nurseries, retailers, mailorder sources:

**B&D Lilies**, Port Townsend, WA, 360-765-4341, [www.bdlilies.com](http://www.bdlilies.com).

**Garden Crossings**, Zeeland, MI, 616-875-6355, [www.gardencrossings.com](http://www.gardencrossings.com).

**Harris Seeds**, Rochester, NY, 800-514-4441, [www.harrisseed.com](http://www.harrisseed.com).

**High Country Gardens**, Santa Fe, NM, 800-925-9387, [www.highcountrygardens.com](http://www.highcountrygardens.com).

**J. W. Jung Seed Co.**, Randolph, WI, 800-297-3123, [www.jungseed.com](http://www.jungseed.com).

**Jackson & Perkins**, Hodges, SC, 800-872-7673, [www.jacksonandperkins.com](http://www.jacksonandperkins.com).

**Johnny's Selected Seeds**, Winslow, ME, 877-564-6697, [www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com).

**Klehm's Song Sparrow Farm and Nursery**, Avalon, WI, 800-553-3715, [www.klehm.com](http://www.klehm.com).

**Park Seed Co.**, Greenwood, SC, 800-213-0076, [www.parkseed.com](http://www.parkseed.com).

**Plant Delights Nursery**, Raleigh, NC, 919-772-4794, [www.plantdelights.com](http://www.plantdelights.com).

**Renee's Garden Seeds**, Felton, CA, 888-880-7228, [www.reneesgarden.com](http://www.reneesgarden.com).

**Seymour's Selected Seeds**, Randolph, WI, 800-353-9516, [www.seymourseedusa.com](http://www.seymourseedusa.com).

**Stokes Seeds Ltd.**, Thorold, ON, Canada, and Buffalo, NY, 800-396-9238, [www.stokesseed.com](http://www.stokesseed.com).

**T & T Seeds Ltd.**, Winnipeg, MB, Canada, 204-895-9964, [www.ttseeds.com](http://www.ttseeds.com).

**Thompson & Morgan Seedsmen Inc.**, Jackson, NJ, 800-274-7333, [www.tmseeds.com](http://www.tmseeds.com).

**Tomato Growers Supply Co.**, Fort Myers, FL, 888-478-7333, [www.tomatogrowers.com](http://www.tomatogrowers.com).

**Wayside Gardens**, Hodges, SC, 800-213-0379, [www.waysidegardens.com](http://www.waysidegardens.com).

**White Flower Farm**, Litchfield, CT, 800-503-9624, [www.whiteflowerfarm.com](http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com).

Store locators:

If you're looking for a plant from a particular company, use the Web sites below. Look for the store locator (sometimes called retail locator or simply "where to buy"), type in your ZIP code, and browse through a list of local garden centers that are likely to have the plant.

**All-America Rose Selections**, [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org).

**Bailey Nurseries**, [www.baileynurseries.com](http://www.baileynurseries.com).

**Blooms of Bressingham**, [www.bobna.com](http://www.bobna.com).

**Forever & Ever Hydrangea**, [www.foreverhydrangea.com](http://www.foreverhydrangea.com).

**Hines Horticulture**, [www.hineshort.com](http://www.hineshort.com).

**Monrovia**, [www.monrovia.com](http://www.monrovia.com).

**Novalis**, [www.novalisinc.com](http://www.novalisinc.com).

**Perennial Resource**, [www.perennialresource.com](http://www.perennialresource.com).

**Proven Winners**, [www.provenwinners.com](http://www.provenwinners.com).

**Simply Beautiful**, [www.simplybeautifulgardens.com](http://www.simplybeautifulgardens.com).

**Terra Nova Nurseries**, [www.terrannotnurseries.com](http://www.terrannotnurseries.com).

## Early Bloomers, page 38

For information on winter-blooming shrubs:

**Arnold Arboretum**, Harvard University, <http://arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/pdf/articles/1019.pdf>

**University of Illinois Extension**, [www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/shrubselector/](http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/shrubselector/)

For information on ground covers:

**Cornell University**, [www.entomology.cornell.edu/extension/woodys/cugroundcoversite/groundcovermain.html](http://www.entomology.cornell.edu/extension/woodys/cugroundcoversite/groundcovermain.html)

For information on early-spring perennials:

**Iowa State University Extension**, [www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/RG318.pdf](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/RG318.pdf)

## Tool Shop, page 50

Source for moisture meter, hand snips, and watering can:  
Local garden centers, home stores, and large retailers such as Target and Wal-Mart.

Source for houseplant hand tools, indoor hose, and potting tray:

**Dorothy Biddle Service**, Greeley, PA, 570-226-3239, [www.dorothybiddle.com](http://www.dorothybiddle.com).

Source for light meter:

**Worm's Way**, Bloomington, IN, 800-274-9676, [www.wormsway.com](http://www.wormsway.com).

## Up Close, page 68

**Orchids Limited**, 800-669-6006, [www.orchidweb.com](http://www.orchidweb.com).



## UPCLOSE answer

(see page 68)

### wine and shadows

*Paphiopedilum* 'Nightshadow' is a Maudiae-type hybrid orchid created about five years ago from a cross between two *Paphiopedilum* cultivars: 'Ruby Leopard' and 'Laser'. 'Nightshadow' is a vinicolor, or wine-colored, hybrid, which means it has more pigment than others in its group. 'Nightshadow' blooms twice a year, and each set of flowers lasts two to three months.