

STATE-BY-STATE
GARDENING

OHIO GARDENER

OHIO'S OWN GUIDE TO GREAT GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

*Best
Plants
for Max
Bloom*

**ECHINACEAS
FOR EVERY
GARDEN**

**PLANTS
THAT CAN TAKE
THE HEAT**

July

0 74470 26271 8

www.ohgardener.com

Contents

July/August 2011



43

OHIO GARDENER

OHIO'S OWN GUIDE TO GREAT GARDENING & LANDSCAPING

Publisher
Steve Giddings

Editor
Michelle Byrne Walsh

Art Director
Suzanne Ray

Webmaster/Graphic Artist
Christopher Kilpatrick

Graphic Artist
Doug Futch

Contributing Writers
Pam Bennett, Tim Malinich, Troy Cooper, Scott Beuerlein, Bobbie Schwartz, Kate Copsy, Chris Eirschele, Chris Baker, Ann McCulloh, Dawn Seymour, Brad Fresenburg, Alan Branhagen, Gene Bush, Charlotte Kidd, Ilene Sternberg, Gloria Day, Matt Bunch, TC Conner, Kylee Baumle and Linda W. Kraft

Advertising Sales
Ashley Gnemi James
Kathy Hogrefe
Ann Sanders
Jim Vincent

Marketing Manager
Kevin Allen

Distribution Manager
Maria Lucca

Circulation Manager
Courtney Newcomer

Ohio Gardener Magazine
(ISSN 2158-0073)

Volume I, Number 4, July/August 2011. Ohio Gardener is published bi-monthly by The Team Advertising and Publishing Inc. 106 W. Alabama Ave, Ruston, LA 71270. Copyright 2011 by The Team Advertising and Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without permission from the publisher. The views and opinions of the writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the magazine's management or owners. We will consider, but assume no responsibility for, unsolicited manuscripts, art and photographs. All such materials must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope or it will not be returned.

Application to mail at periodicals postage prices is pending at Ruston, Louisiana and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Ohio Gardener, PO Box 730, Downers Grove, IL 60515-0703

Subscriptions: \$19.95 for 1 year (6 issues)

Our address: State-by-State Gardening PO Box 730, Downers Grove, IL 60515-0703

www.ohgardener.com
Call us at (318) 255-3149
or toll-free at 1-888-265-3600
Fax us at (318) 251-8882
or email contact@statebystategardening.com

Features

- 12 Plants that Can Take the Heat
- 16 8 Great Citrus Herbs
- 19 Tips for Maximum Bloom
- 24 Fall-Blooming Beauties
- 31 Gardening When It Hurts
- 34 Double Barrel Drought Busters
- 38 Growing Outside the Fruit Box
- 41 Appreciate the Beneficials
- 43 An Echinacea for Every Garden



16



On The Cover
Heuchera 'Georgia Peach'

PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRA NOVA NURSERIES

Departments

- 6 **Ask The Expert**
Advice for gardeners across Ohio
- 8 **Region Reports**
Gardening information specifically for your area
- 28 **Gardening Basics**
Midsummer Checkup
- 46 **The Conscientious Gardener**
Rain, Rain Go Away
- 52 **Garden Profile**
Daylily Dance
- 56 **How To Do That**
Lawn Care Primer
- 59 **Hot Plants**
Angelina Stonecrop
- 60 **Hot Plants**
Coleus
- 61 **Calendar of Events**
- 66 **Only in Ohio**



59



Plants That Love Ohio HEAT

The rosy sepals of *Heptacodium miconioides* provide an extra three to four weeks of color after blooming.

Horticultural heat-lovers abound for Ohio gardens. The dilemma is choosing between them. Here are 15 heat-tolerant, drought-resistant plants to add to your garden.

By **Bobbie Schwartz**

Gardeners in Ohio never know what the weather will be on a given summer day, but temperatures usually rise into the 80s and sometimes soar into the 90s. Those of us who prefer not to run up huge water bills turn to drought-resistant plants that welcome heat and lack of water. Concomitant with lack of water is the need for excellent drainage; the plants that thrive in these summer conditions will die during the winter if the soil is too wet. All of the plants that I will mention are hardy to at least Zone 5 and some to Zone 4.



Hydrangea quercifolia
'Snowflake'



The fall color of *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diabolo' foliage is at its most brilliant when backlit.



Black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)



The fall color of *Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Diabolo' foliage is at its most brilliant when backlit.

Trees

When designing gardens, I always start with the largest plants because they provide structure. Two of my favorite drought-tolerant trees are black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) and seven-son flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*).

Nyssa sylvatica is a very large tree that should be positioned in the southwest corner of a large lawn to shade the house during the summer. It has nice, glossy green foliage during the growing season, but its finest attribute is its flaming fall color. A very large tree at 30 to 50 feet high and 20 to 30 feet wide, a few smaller cultivars such as 'Autumn Cascade' and 'Zydeco Twist', could lend additional interest to the garden due to their unusual form.

In late August 1995, while visiting the Trompenburg Arboretum in Rotterdam, I stood in awe, gazing at a tree that I had never seen before. The leaves of the vase-shaped, graceful tree curved downward while the ends of each branch were literally covered with innumerable clusters of white buds that were just beginning to open. Next, I noticed the lovely exfoliating bark that would provide winter interest. I soon learned that this was seven-son flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*). Native to China and growing 15 to 30 feet tall by 12 feet wide, it prefers moist soil in full sun, but I can testify to its ability to withstand drought and some shade. It has been in my landscape since 1997 and I have since learned that the flower buds would become star-like, fragrant white flowers followed by rosy calyces that would contribute additional color and interest to the landscape. Woody plants that supply both fall flowers and then additional color are to be treasured.

Shrubs

Moving on to shrubs that love heat, I recommend ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) and oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*). *Physocarpus opulifolius* is as tough as can be. My 'Diabolo', a purple-foliaged cultivar, receives almost full sun all afternoon and is never watered except by Mother Nature. It is a very large, vase-shaped shrub that needs a space about 10 feet tall by 10 feet wide. Use it as a multi-season screen that has attractive foliage, ruby-red buds that open to pale pinkish-white flower clusters in May and red fruit from June until fall when the foliage turns bright reddish-orange. Just on the market this year is a dwarf cultivar called 'Donna May' (or Little Devil™) that is just as tough and seems to be more shade tolerant.

How does anyone live without at least one *Hydrangea quercifolia*? This versatile shrub will grow almost anywhere. The large, oak-leaf-shaped foliage lends strong textural contrast to small-leaved shrubs and perennials. The species grows 4 to 6 feet tall by 3 to 4 feet wide and is an excellent background plant. Its large, pyramidal white panicles bloom in July and frequently remain on the plant through the winter when the exfoliating bark is quite visible. There are also two dwarf cultivars, 'PeeWee' and 'Sike's Dwarf', which only grow to 3 feet and could, therefore, be used in the middle of the border. Don't prune unless there is some die-back or you want to encourage a bushier form.

Continued on Page 15.



Heuchera villosa 'Autumn Bride'



My *Heuchera* 'Georgia Peach' grows on a south-facing slope in the midst of *Geranium cantabrigiense* 'Biokovo Karmina'. Note how large the heuchera leaves are.

15 More Heat-Loving Plants

Trees

- Red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*)
- Golden Glory Cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas* 'Golden Glory')
- Goldenrain tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)

Shrubs

- Sunshine Blue bluebeard (*Caryopteris incana* 'Jason')
- Japanese kerria (*Kerria japonica*)
- Tiger Eyes® staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina* 'Tiger Eyes')
- Sem® false spirea (*Sorbaria sorbifolia* 'Sem')

Perennials & Grasses

- Giant seakale (*Crambe cordifolia*)
- Sea holly (*Eryngium planum*)
- Blue oat grass (*Helictotrichon sempervirens*)
- Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Annuals

- Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*)
- Purple Feather cockscomb (*Celosia spicata* 'Flamingo Feather Purple')
- Dwarf spider flower (*Cleome hasslerana* 'Sparkler Mix')
- Brazilian verbena (*Verbena bonariensis*)



The golden yellow fall color of *Amsonia hubrichtii* is a show stopper. It is shown with *Panicum 'Northwind'* in a xeric landscape of a suburban Cleveland home.

Perennials

There are so many heat- and drought-tolerant perennials that it's hard to decide which few to bring to your attention. Who would think that coral bells or alumroot (*Heuchera* sp.) fit into this category, but the ones that have *H. villosa* heritage can take their place in the sun or the shade. I have been growing them in my garden for several years and these cultivars are rugged. They increase in size more quickly with average moisture but they still thrive in heat and drought. Most of these cultivars have white flowers that bloom in the fall and many have stunning foliage 12 months of the year. Talk about workhorses! After a few years, a clump is usually 18 inches wide but only 4 inches high until it blooms and even then, the bloom stalks will only be 12 to 18 inches tall. The ones that I use the most in my designs are 'Georgia Peach', 'Southern Comfort', and 'Autumn Bride'.

I love Arkansas blue star (*Amsonia hubrichtii*), the 2011 Perennial Plant Association Plant of the Year. It performs best in full sun and well-drained, average to moist soil but thumbs its nose at adverse conditions. Several years ago, I saw it as a bushy mass in mid-July on a Philadelphia campus when the area was in the midst of a long, dry, hot summer. Clusters of pale blue, star-shaped flowers bloom in June but this plant comes into its full glory in the fall when the feathery foliage turns a brilliant golden yellow. Maintenance is minimal. Its 3-foot stems never need staking and I merely cut back the old foliage to the base in early spring if it hasn't fallen to the ground, in which case I leave it there as a natural mulch. A slow spreader, division will not be necessary for many years. Happily, it is also deer-resistant.



Portulaca grandiflora Yubi® Apricot is a heat and drought-tolerant trailing annual. Give it full sun and water sparingly.

Annuals

I'm a huge fan of mixing all types of plants but I am not a lover of bedding annuals. I do love distinctive ones, however, and my favorites are flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana sylvestris* and *N. langsdorfii*). Both are called flowering tobacco and have large leaves, grow 5 feet tall, and bear sprays of elongated trumpet-type flowers. Those of *Nicotiana sylvestris* are white while those of *Nicotiana langsdorfii* are chartreuse and smaller. Needing long days of sun and heat, neither will bloom until late summer, but will continue well into fall. I am grateful that they are self-sowers, and I always allow them to naturalize so that they fill gaps left by early-blooming plants.

At the other end of the height spectrum is moss rose or purslane (*Portulaca grandiflora*). It is generally grown in flats and can be spaced 8 to 12 inches apart. Only 4 inches high, this annual comes in an array of bright, cheerful colors. Give it full sun and water sparingly. I've been using it in my front porch containers that receive full sun all day, mixing it with a ground cover sedum that will overwinter.

Horticultural heat lovers abound for Ohio gardens. The dilemma is choosing between them. ♡

Bobbie Schwartz, FAPLD is a fellow, certified member and president of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. She is the owner of Bobbie's Green Thumb, a landscape consulting and design firm in Shaker Heights and is the author of The Design Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together.