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TERRA NOVA Nurseries

This top-notch nursery offers something to brighten any garden.

By Justin W. Hancock Photography by Chris Hansen



Plantsman Dan Heims knows how to brighten your day—or at least your garden. The proprietor of Terra Nova Nurseries in Canby, Oregon, has been feverishly breeding new plants, especially coralbells, foam flowers, and foamy bells (a curious cross of the two), to add life and color to shady and sunny gardens alike.

If you know perennials, chances are you know Heims' plants. Terra Nova released coralbells 'Amber Waves', an award-winning variety that took the garden world by storm thanks to its amber-gold foliage. Never satisfied, he repeated the feat with 'Lime Rickey', a coralbells with incredible

TOP: For more than a decade, the breeding greenhouses at Terra Nova Nurseries have worked to enhance every characteristic of coralbells. ABOVE: Renowned British plantswoman Beth Chatto passes along an original Begonia rex collected in the wild to Dan Heims.



chartreuse foliage. And Heims continues working on new and exciting varieties including

'Georgia Peach', which he released just this year. This variety is sure to cast a spell over thousands of gardeners—especially those in the South—because it's completely heat-resistant and offers peach-color leaves overlaid with silver. And that's not all—it also offers a fall surprise with rose-purple tones.

Talking to Heims, it's evident that plants are his passion. He speaks with a profound knowledge and love of all things green—and loves to share that with others. His philosophy on gardening is "to bring enchantment and joy to the garden, to create intrigue, and challenge garden designers with new colors."

Looking through the offerings at Terra Nova, it's not hard to see how Heims has accomplished that. From his 30-plus coralbells to his collection of coreopsis (including drool-worthy *Coreopsis tripteris* 'Lightning Flash' that offers eye-popping gold foliage and reaches up to 6 feet tall) and *Corydalis* (how can you not love 'Blackberry Wine', with its tendency to bloom almost all

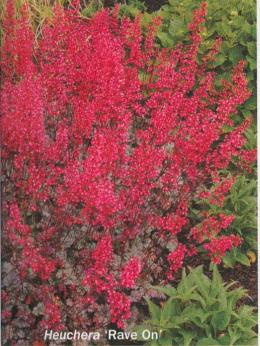
year with fragrant purple flowers?), Heims is a master at stretching the boundaries of a plant. "Who ever thought there'd be a DayGlo orange variety of any plant?" he asks with a grin, referring to his new *Echinacea* 'Tiki Torch'.

Though Terra Nova's plants are a dream for plant collectors, the company isn't satisfied with simply producing great plants—it also wants to make them fun and inviting, so the staff have put a lot of energy into naming their creations. It's easy to get excited about plants with such monikers as 'Berry Exciting' (a *Corydalis* that has fragrant purple flowers and golden-yellow ferny leaves), 'Pink Octopus' (a *Campanula* with spidery flowers that appear in clusters of up to 50 per stem), 'Stripe It Rich' (a sun-tolerant *Hakonechloa* bearing white-striped golden leaves), and 'Mr. Goodbud' (a *Sedum* with dark mauve blooms).

Heims offers great advice on picking plants: "Try plants in containers where you can explore more. Be a kid with a new chemistry set." Try a splash of *Heuchera* 'Ginger Ale'—you'll see that Heims' plants can add a brighter note to your day and your garden.

For more information, see page 111.





Information

For more information or to find a listing of nurseries and local garden centers that carry Terra Nova Nurseries plants, visit **terranovanurseries.com.**

