



'Bleeding Hearts' ox-eye sunflower



Sunburst™ Black Hills spruce



'Depurple' cauliflower




'Purple Prince' Brazilian joyweed

New Plants for 2018


BY CHARLOTTE GERMANE

PLANTING SOMETHING gives us hope, as does the beginning of a new year. Colorful plant and seed catalogs are stacking up on our coffee tables, encouraging that hopefulness, and sparking ideas for new designs to refresh our gardens and renew our enjoyment of the outdoors. Choosing what merits room in our gardens can be difficult.

To help ease the decisionmaking process, here are some plants that won national awards, performed well in trials at large gardens, and excelled in the backyards of garden communicators around the country. [See the box on the opposite page for a list of the experts who helped us identify worthy selections.]

Among the themes that emerged is that planting to support butterflies and other pollinators remains popular. Regionally native plants are sometimes the only food source for some pollinators. Native plants and “nativars,” their newest cultivars that will still support pollinators, are identified with a special mark .

The color-standards company Pantone has forecast Ultra Violet as the color of 2018, so if you need an excuse to use more purple in the garden, you'll find that hue in blooms, foliage, and even cauliflower.

Whether you are adding reliable color to your summer hanging baskets, looking for a new hot pepper, seeking a flavorful summer squash, scouting the latest heucheras, or replacing a tree, there is something for you here. Photos of all these plants are on our Pinterest board (*New Plants for 2018*, www.pinterest.com/ambortsociety). Visit our Facebook page and tell us which plants make you look forward to a new growing season (www.facebook.com/americanhorticulturalsociety). 

Charlotte Germane is digital communications manager for the American Horticultural Society.

The following professionals in the horticultural field shared their experience for this article: **Niki Jabbour**, garden book author and radio host in Halifax, Nova Scotia; **Mark Dwyer**, director of horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville, Wisconsin; **Denny Schrock**, lecturer and Master Gardener Coordinator at Iowa State University in Des Moines; **Susan Morrison**, garden designer and author in the San Francisco Bay area; **Kylee Baumle**, garden author in northwest Ohio; **Stephanie Cohen**, garden writer and horticulture professor in Collegeville, Pennsylvania; **Rebecca Sweet**, garden designer and author in northern California; **Denise Schreiber**, greenhouse manager/horticulturist at Allegheny County Parks in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; **Shawna Coronado**, garden author in the Chicago, Illinois, area; **Lorraine Ballato**, garden writer and horticulturist in the Berkshires of Massachusetts; and **Susan Martin**, garden writer and speaker in Holland, Michigan.



Salsa Verde coleus

ANNUALS & TENDER PERENNIALS

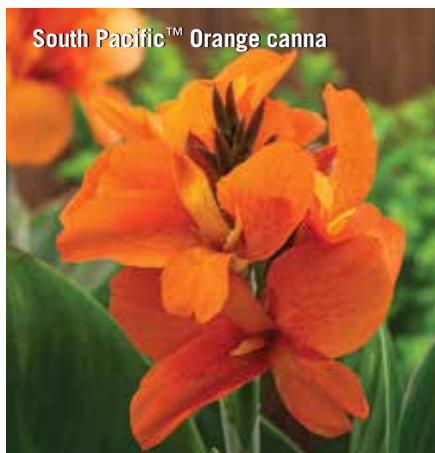
A compact variety of **Brazilian joyweed** (*Alternanthera brasiliana*), **'Purple Prince'** was a standout at trial gardens across the country. Mark Dwyer calls it “an excellent edging plant or container element with dark maroon, glossy foliage.” It mounds to 16 inches tall and 20 inches wide. Grow it in full or part sun; drought tolerant. USDA Hardiness Zones 9–11, AHS Heat Zones 12–1. PanAmerican Seed.

Supertunia® Lovie Dovie™ boasts heat-loving, large white flowers with magenta stripes. This **petunia** hybrid earned four Best of Show wins at major trial gardens. Rebecca Sweet appreciated the continuous blooms that were still going as the autumn leaves fell. Mark Dwyer says it had “impact from both near and far.” Trailing up to 30 inches, and growing to 12 inches tall, it can be used as a filler or spiller in containers, or at the front of a bed, in part to full sun. Zones 10–11, 12–1. Proven Winners.

Denny Schrock says **Mega Bloom 'Orchid Halo' periwinkle** (*Catharanthus roseus*) “lived up to its name, bearing extra-large lavender flowers with a contrasting white center on glossy, deep green foliage.” This mounding, 13-inch-tall plant thrives in full-sun containers or landscape beds and is a 2017 All-America Selections (AAS) national winner. Mark Dwyer notes its “unbelievable heat tolerance and disease resistance.” Zones 10–11, 12–1. AmeriSeed, Jung Seed.



Mega Bloom 'Orchid Halo' periwinkle



South Pacific™ Orange canna

FloriGlory® Diana Mexican heather (*Cuphea hyssopifolia*) won a 2018 AAS national award for its abundant and unusually large magenta flowers and deep green foliage. Denise Schreiber calls this sun-loving, drought-tolerant plant, which stays compact at 10 to 12 inches tall, “ideal for landscape use.” Zones 8–11, 12–1. Westhoff.



Superbells® Double Ruby calibrachoa

'Gypsy White Improved' is a bigger and better **baby's breath** (*Gypsophila muralis*) that Denise Schreiber describes as “a winner from the get go” and “extremely floriferous.” Mounding up to 10 inches, this 2018 AAS national winner looks good in containers or the landscape, and can be used fresh or dried in arrangements. Zones 10–11, 12–1. Sakata Seed Corporation.

For a summer container of rosy red, try a mass of trailing **Superbells® Double Ruby**. Lorraine Ballato says this **Calibrachoa** hybrid was “a stand-out with great color and form.” In part to full sun, this foot-tall plant can trail up to two feet. Zones 9–11, 12–1. Proven Winners.

Chartreuse is a useful accent in many plantings, and the narrow-leaved foliage of **Salsa Verde coleus** (*Solenostemon scutellarioides*) can be an interesting addition. Never exceeding 18 inches tall and wide, its color is most vivid in sun and darkens to lime in light shade. Mark Dwyer hails it as “an eye-catching variety that has impact as a specimen, in a grouping, or contributing in a container.” Zones 11–11, 12–1. Ball Seed.

South Pacific™ Orange canna (*Canna generalis*) is a 2018 AAS national award winner. The branching, three-to-five-foot stems support numerous orange flowers that bloom over a long period in summer. Denise Schreiber describes this selection as “very uniform in height, making it ideal for large displays or just in containers.” Zones 8–11, 12–1. Takii & Co., Ltd.

PERENNIALS

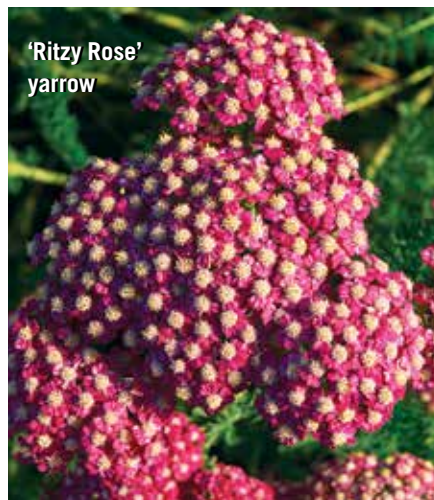
The trial gardeners sang a chorus of praise for **Rockin'™ Playin' the Blues® salvia** developed from a cross between *Salvia longispicata* and *S. farinacea*. Kylee Baumle grew it in full sun in a container where “it stole the show” with its two- to four-foot-tall stalks of continuous flowers. For Lorraine Ballato, it “delivered fantastic color with no maintenance, and drew bees right into November.” Zones 7–10, 10–4. Proven Winners.

A 10-inch mound of vibrant red-violet foliage makes **Heuchera Primo™ 'Wild Rose'** a star for shade gardens. Pale pink flowers bloom on burgundy stems up to 20 inches above the foliage. “The color glowed from a distance and the plant nearly doubled in size over the growing season,” says Susan Martin. Mark Dwyer pronounces it a “superb selection with a long future ahead and few competitors for its vivid foliage.” Zones 4–9, 9–4. Proven Winners.

'Bleeding Hearts', a new **ox-eye sunflower** (*Heliopsis helianthoides* var. *scabra*), is the first selection without a hint of yellow in the flowers. Throughout the late summer and early fall, the flowers change color from scarlet to orange-red and finally bronze. Grow in full sun as a cut flower or to attract pollinators. Zones 3–9, 9–3. Jelitto Perennial Seeds.



Heuchera Primo™ 'Wild Rose'



'Ritzy Rose'
yarrow



Big Time Blue
English lavender

Big Time Blue is a compact **English lavender** (*Lavandula angustifolia*) with large, early-blooming flowers. Denise Schreiber says the “extremely fragrant” heavy bloomer did well even in a wet Pittsburgh summer. Growing up to two feet tall and wide, this lavender needs full sun and good drainage; it may rebloom following a summer trim. Zones 5–8, 8–1. Concept Plants.

Susan Morrison praises **'Ritzy Rose' yarrow** (*Achillea millefolium*) as “the hands-down winner” of her 2017 plant trials. Although Morrison’s California garden is hotter than recommended, she says the plant’s deep-rose flowers with a lighter-colored eye bloomed non-stop May through November. The 14-inch mounded habit makes it ideal for small spaces. This drought-tolerant, deer-resistant yarrow grows best in full sun. Zones 3–9, 9–1. Rozanne & Friends.

The eye-catching clusters of dangling aqua-blue flowers no doubt helped **Corydalis flexuosa 'Porcelain Blue'** win the 2017 Farwest Award of Merit. Although most corydalis varieties tend to go dormant in the summer, this one blooms repeatedly from early spring through fall. Its deeply lobed, blue-green foliage is also attractive. It forms 10-by-12 inch clumps in part shade. Zones 6–8, 8–6. PlantHaven International, Inc.

Sneezeweed (*Helenium* spp.) is a lanky colorful summer bloomer that usually



Corydalis flexuosa 'Porcelain Blue'

needs staking. Not so for **Mariachi™ 'Bandera'**, a hybrid dwarf variety that reaches only 15 inches tall and wide. It produces prolific daisylike red flowers with a yellow halo. Grow it in full sun. Zones 3–9, 9–1. Plants Nouveau.

For short accents of brilliant blue in a rock garden or trough, try **'Bella Alpinella'** a selection of **summer gentian** (*Gentiana septemfida* var. *lagodechiana*) that forms a four-inch-high compact cushion topped by upright blue flowers from mid to late summer. Plant in part shade where summers are hot. Zones 3–7, 7–1. Jelitto Perennial Seeds.

'Plum Dazzled' is the latest hardy **sedum** in the SunSparkler® series. Topping out at eight inches tall, it offers season-long interest with purple foliage followed by dense clusters of raspberry-pink flowers from mid- to late summer. Plant this clump-former in full sun as a groundcover, in containers, or to edge a border. Zones 4–9, 9–4. Garden Solutions, Concept Plants.

SHRUBS & TREES

Add an RHS Chelsea Flower Show Plant of the Year to your garden with **Miss Saori mophead hydrangea** (*Hydrangea macrophylla*). This 2014 prize winner is only now becoming widely available in the United States. The double bicolor



Mariachi™ 'Bandera' sneezeweed

flowers, with dark rose margins and white centers, are set off by burgundy foliage in spring and fall. Flowering begins in June and continues into early fall. This compact shrub grows to 40 inches tall and wide, making it a good choice for a container or a border in part shade to full sun. Zones 5–9, 9–5. Concept Plants.

The crowd-pleasing combination of burgundy foliage and violet flowers on **Black Diamond® Purely Purple™ crape myrtle** (*Lagerstroemia indica*) earned it the People's Choice Best in Show award at the 2017 Farwest Show. This small tree or large shrub reaches 10 to 12 feet



Miss Saori mophead hydrangea

tall and eight feet in diameter. It blooms from early summer until frost in full sun. Drought tolerant once established. Zones 7–9, 9–7. J. Berry Nursery.

The flower color of the new **Coral Knock Out® rose** (*Rosa* 'Radral') intensifies in hot and humid weather. Grow this four-foot-by-four-foot shrub rose in full sun on its own or as part of a hedge. Blooms from spring to fall. Zones 5–10, 10–5. Star Roses and Plants.

Enjoy early fall flowers from **October Magic® Rose™ camellia**. With its columnar habit, you can easily tuck this shrub in a spare sunny or partly shaded

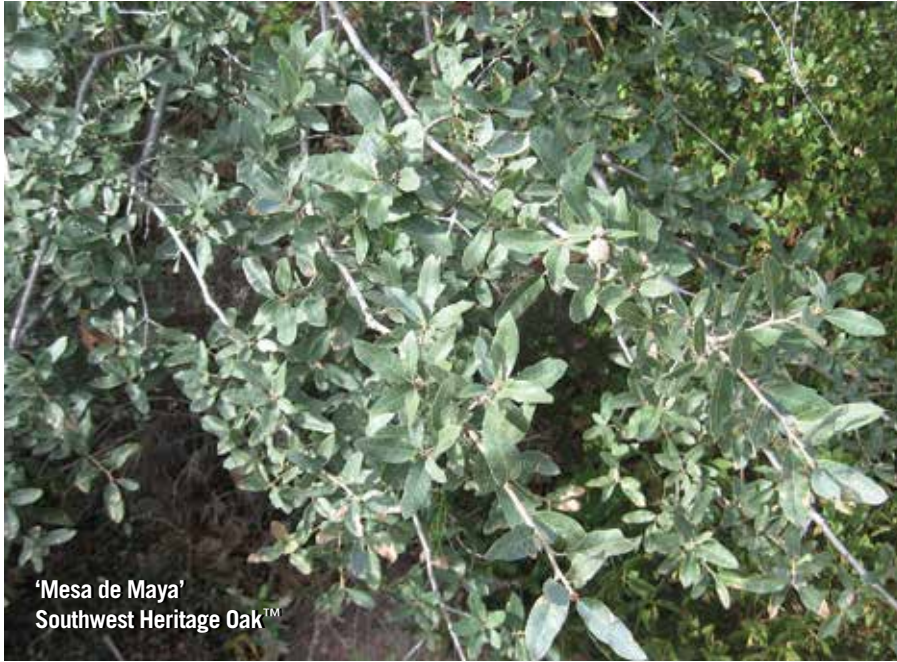


October Magic® Rose™ camellia

spot. Topping out at six to eight feet tall, it will provide masses of salmon-pink, double flowers. Zones 7–9, 9–7. Southern Living Plant Collection, Sunset Western Garden Collection.

Little Joker® ('Hoogi021') is a compact variety of **ninebark** (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), a native shrub. It features burgundy foliage and pale-pink, buttonlike flowers. Blooming from spring into early summer, it grows to four feet tall and wide in part shade to full sun. Zones 3–7, 7–1. Monrovia.

Newly available in the United States is **Imogen** ('Austritch'), a frilly, pale-yellow-flowered **shrub rose** with mild fragrance from English breeder David Austin. The upright, floriferous rose grows to over four feet tall and three feet wide in full sun. Zones 5–9, 9–1. David Austin Roses.



'Mesa de Maya'
Southwest Heritage Oak™



Imogen shrub rose

🌸 **'Mesa de Maya' Southwest Heritage Oak™** (*Quercus x undulata*) won the 2017 Farwest Best of Show award. Suited to dry conditions in the West and Southwest, this hybrid oak developed by Allan Taylor will grow to 25 feet tall and 20 feet wide on grafted rootstock. It features unusually-shaped blue-green leaves. Zones 5–8, 8–5. Heritage Seedlings & Liners, Inc.

Rutgers University researchers have made a breakthrough with **Scarlet Fire®** ('Rutpink'), a selection of Asian **kousa**



Scarlet Fire® kousa dogwood

dogwood (*Cornus kousa*) that offers deep-pink color in its floral bracts in late spring. A slow grower, it can eventually reach a height of 25 feet and spread of 20 feet. Grow in full sun to part shade; heat tolerant. Zones 5–8, 8–5. Rare Find Nursery, Spring Hill Nurseries.

🌸 In the winter landscape, the golden-yellow branch tips of **Sunburst™** ('MonChet'), a selection of **Black Hills spruce** (*Picea glauca* var. *densata*) appear to glow. This pyramidal-shaped evergreen will grow slowly to a mature size of 35 to 50 feet tall and 10 to 25 feet in diameter. Full sun and moist but free-draining soil. Zones 2–7, 7–2. Monrovia.

EDIBLES

Denny Schrock says the outstanding flavor of **'Midnight Snack'** has made it his favorite **cherry tomato** (*Solanum lycopersicum*). Niki Jabbour in Nova Scotia appreciates the early harvest (65 to 70 days) and continuous production of this indeterminate tomato, which is a 2017 AAS national winner. Shawna Coronado loves the bright red color with purple-black overlay. Matures in 65 to 70 days after transplant. Zones 11–11, 12–1. PanAmerican Seed.

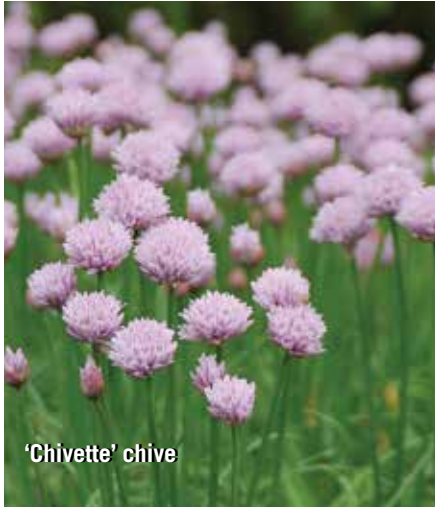
If you like unusually-colored vegetables, **'Depurple'** cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea* var. *botrytis*) features cool purple florets. Denny Schrock says this 18-inch-tall selection provides a splash of color on raw veggie



'Midnight Snack' cherry tomato

platters. Sprinkle the florets with lemon juice or vinegar to retain the attractive hue when cooked. Matures in 80 to 100 days. Zones 0–0, 8–1. W. Atlee Burpee & Company.

Stephanie Cohen says **'Chivette'**, a new **chive** (*Allium* sp.) selection bred to be less likely to self-sow, is equally at home in a rock garden, herb garden, container, or perennial border. Foot-tall clumps of edible tubular leaves form first, followed in early summer by terminal clusters of (also edible) lavender flowers. Zones 4–9, 9–1. Intrinsic Perennial Gardens.



'Chivette' chive



'Candy Cane Red' sweet pepper

Niki Jabbour lauds **'Candy Cane Red' sweet pepper** (*Capsicum annuum*) for the "unusual green-and-white-striped fruits and variegated foliage," as well as the early harvest beginning just 45 days after transplanting. The crisp, thin-skinned, four-inch peppers will turn red if left on the two-foot tall plants to mature. Matures in 45 to 65 days after transplant. Zones 0-0, 12-4. PanAmerican Seed.

Renee's Garden has an exclusive introduction to the United States with **Tibetan Lhasa chili peppers** (*Capsicum annuum*), the most widely grown chili in Tibet. The compact plants produce an abundant harvest of aromatic and fiery-hot, four-inch-long peppers that mature from green to bright red. Matures in 70 to 75

Wholesale Nurseries/ Marketing Consortiums

Visit these companies' websites to locate retail sources for their plants.

- AmeriSeed**, www.ameriseed.net.
- Ball Seed**, www.ballseed.com.
- Concept Plants/Garden Solutions, LLC.**, www.conceptplants.com.
- Dave Wilson Nursery**, www.davewilson.com.
- Heritage Seedlings & Liners, Inc.**, www.heritageseedlings.com.
- Intrinsic Perennial Gardens**, www.intrinsicperennialgardens.com.
- J. Berry Nursery**, www.jberrynursery.com.
- Monrovia**, www.monrovia.com.
- PanAmerican Seed**, www.panamseed.com.
- PlantHaven International**, www.planthaven.com.
- Plants Nouveau**, www.plantsnouveau.com.
- Proven Winners**, www.provenwinners.com.
- Rozanne & Friends**, www.geraniumrozanne.com.
- Sakata Ornamentals**, www.sakataornamentals.com.

- Star Roses & Plants**, www.starrosesandplants.com.
- Southern Living Plant Collection**, www.southernlivingplants.com.
- Sunset Western Garden Collection**, www.sunsetwesterngardencollection.com.
- Takii Seed**, www.takiiseed.com.
- Westhoff**, www.westflowers.de.

Retail Sources

- David Austin Roses Limited**, Tyler, TX. www.davidaustinroses.com.
- Jelitto Perennial Seeds**, Louisville, KY. www.jelitto.com.
- Johnny's Selected Seeds**, Winslow, ME. www.johnnyseeds.com.
- Jung Seed**, Randolph, WI. www.jungseed.com.
- RareFind Nursery**, Jackson, NJ. www.rarefindnursery.com.
- Renee's Garden**, Felton, CA. www.reneesgarden.com.
- Spring Hill Nurseries**, Harrison, OH. www.springhillnursery.com.
- W. Atlee Burpee & Company**, Warminster, PA. www.burpee.com.



'Tempest' summer squash

days from transplant. Zones 0-0, 12-1. Renee's Garden.

Gardeners in warm climates will appreciate **'Royal Crimson'**, a self-fruitful **cherry tree** that produces sweet, red, crisp-fleshed cherries. Developed by the Zaiger family of California, 'Royal Crimson' is suitable for climates with 200 to 300 chill hours. It also blooms with, and can pollenize, popular cherry tree

selections 'Minnie Royal' and 'Royal Lee'. Zones 8-10, 8-1. Dave Wilson Nursery.

'Tempest' is a hybrid **crookneck summer squash** (*Cucurbita pepo*) that has a firmer texture and more flavor than standard varieties. Its ridged four- to seven-inch-long fruits are butter-yellow. Matures in 54 to 60 days. Zones 0-0, 8-1. Johnny's Selected Seeds.