

New Plants for 2009: GardenGateMagazine.com - Issue 86 Online Extra

It's always exciting to see what kinds of new plants will be available at the garden center in spring. Take a look at Garden Gate Magazine's slide show for a sneak peek!

http://www.gardengatemagazine.com/extras/086/new_plants.php

I find it interesting that the on-line 'New Plants for 2009' are not the same plants featured in paper magazine issue 86 'Garden Gate' magazine. Page 18-25 features Garden Gate's Top Picks 'New Plants' 2009:

I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Pella (Iowa) Federated Garden Club March 4th with featured speaker, Marcia Leeper / gardener from 'Garden Gate' magazine. Marcia talked about the new plants 2009. First up, 'Tiger Eye Gold' rudbeckia. She especially noted it is great in containers. I see in the actual paper article the plant is only cold hardy in zone 10. Where is that? - A long ways away from my zone 5. So saying it is a tender perennial is a bit misleading IMHO but it is recommended to be treated as an annual outside zone 10. That could be good as rudbeckia can become a bit invasive in the sun garden.

Next up from Marcia was Begonia BIG series – begonia hybrid that is well, a BIG begonia & great for containers / hanging baskets. The article talks about it being good in full sun. Then recants stating protection from hot afternoon sun is welcomed. Three colors are available: Red with Green Leaf, Rose with Bronze Leaf, or Red with Bronze Leaf. 12-18" tall & wide

A catchy new name in echinacea hybrid "Mac 'n Cheese and Tomato Soup" (coneflower) is a combo of colors, cheesy orange-yellow / yellow /red. Interesting I suppose.

'Solar Flare' false indigo / Baptisia hybrid had Marcia all excited & me too. The flowers open lemon yellow gradually fading to rusty orange. Strong up upright plants reaching 3-4' tall & wide. I want it in my garden. There must be space somewhere.

The most exciting plant for me to hear about was 'Burning Hearts' bleeding heart / Dicentra hybrid with deep red flowers delicately trimmed in white. They are stunning in the pictures. It's a fern-leaf bleeding heart said to bloom from spring to fall. It is more drought tolerant than other dicentra species. It will go dormant if not watered in prolonged dry weather.

Another plant that Marcia was excited about is Echeveria 'Echeveria rudolfii' Metallica. It is described as Rosette of metallic-looking foliage; 6-12" tall. It's a tender perennial, cold hardy in zone 9-10. Marcia has been using it containers. She plants it on a mound in the container or leans it on its side. It is a succulent & appreciates good drainage.

Last but not least Coleus solenostemon hybrid Henna ('Balcenna') was tooted for its marvelous copper & chartreuse leaves with burgundy undersides & its serrated edges. It is of the sun-coleus family but will tolerate shade also.

Other new plants featured in the magazine issue 86: 'Double Click Rose Bonbon' cosmos, 'Sweet Joanne' beardtongue Penstemon hybrid, 'Thundercloud' sedum / sedum hybrid (blooms white), 'Big Blue' sea holly Eryngium hybrid, 'Golden Sunrise' Winter Jewels series Lenten rose, & Rebecca clematis / Clematis 'Evipo016', Port Sunlight rose Rosa 'Auslofty', Edmee Gold boxleaf honeysuckle Lonicera nitida 'Briloni'. Bonus plants: Verbenna Verbenna hybrid 'Annie', Hydrangea 'Forever & Ever White Out', American bittersweet Celastrus scandens Autumn Revolution "Bailumn"), Blanket Flower Gaillardia Commotion 'Tizzy'.