

# Exciting New Plant Introductions

Text & Photos by Evelyn Alemanni

*(Ed. Note: Though we usually focus on local content, we have a great plant friend in California who recently had the opportunity to attend grower Pack Trials on the left coast, and she reports her findings here, with some beautiful photos. I hope it gives you some ideas for your garden...next year!—RW)*

Many plant breeders introduce their newest plant offerings in the Spring at what is referred to as the "Pack Trials" held in California. Many of the growers set up elaborate displays, whetting the appetites of growers who



'Trumpet' Gallardia

decide which varieties they'll be offering next year. Here are some highlights of must-have plants to look for in garden centers starting Spring 2010.



Snow Princess

*Snow Princess*, from Proven Winners, looks like alyssum, but is actually a trailing lobularia. This sterile variety produces mounds of white flowers all summer, and is said to tolerate heat quite well.

Another eye-catcher is *Pretty Much Picasso*, a bicolor purple petunia hybrid with stunning green edges. It takes full sun and has a trailing habit, making it

## Save the Dates!

Two National Groups Bring Conventions & Learning Opportunities to St. Louis

This summer, two major "green industry" organizations are bringing their memberships to St. Louis for major national conventions. While in both cases, the primary focus is on the professional members of the groups, both events offer plenty of opportunities for Master Gardeners and other serious gardeners and landscape enthusiasts for education, enrichment, and rubbing elbows with some of the nation's elite plant professionals.

**"The Global Garden"  
America Public Gardens Association (APGA) Annual Conference**  
June 23-27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

This is the premier event nationally for public garden professionals, and with its them this year celebrating public gardens' roles in advancing plant and life sciences research around the globe, what better place to meet than in the hometown of the Missouri Botanical Garden, which under the leadership of Dr. Peter Raven, has played a leading role with one of the world's largest plant science and conservation programs.

Most of the 5-day program involves educational seminars and sessions geared toward professionals who work in public gardens, but there are several side-sessions and tours that provide rare opportunities and may be of interest to Master Gardeners, horticultural professionals and educators, and many of these can be signed up for individually. For more information on the program, visit their website at [www.publicgardens.org/](http://www.publicgardens.org/) or call APGA at (302) 655-7100.

**Perennial Plant  
Symposium**  
**2009**   
St. Louis, MO  
Gateway to Green Opportunities

July 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Featuring the Perennials In Design Seminar:  
"A Potpourri of Plants, Designs, and Arrangements"**

The 27th Perennial Plant Symposium is the annual meeting and signature educational event of the Perennial Plant Association, the only national program dedicated solely to perennial plant education. The 7-day program will include lectures, trade show, and professional tours of garden centers, nurseries, public, and private gardens and landscapes.

Although, again, primarily geared toward green-industry professionals, the seminar hosts have scheduled a one-day event for the general public, called the **Perennials in Design Seminar**. The program features presentations by six speakers, all nationally recognized professionals in their perennial interest areas with decades of experience in growing and designing with perennials.

Look to our June issue (June being Perennial Plant Month!) for more information, or, why wait--go to [www.hortco-op.org](http://www.hortco-op.org) for more information, or call the PPA at (614) 771-8431. Early bird registration is just \$69 and includes all presentations and beverage breaks. Full time students may pre-register for \$25.

ideal for containers and baskets. I can't wait to grow this one in my garden.

Did you ever wish you could grow shade plants like coleus and impatiens in the sun? With new introductions from Ecke, you'll be able to do just that. The *Pure Beauty* line offers six colors, which are said to hold up well in full sun. The *Coleus Stained Glassworks* series of coleus is tolerant of full sun and offers an exciting way to add vivid color choices to the landscape without flowers.



Another drought and heat tolerant offering is the 'Trumpet' Gaillardia with impressive blooming power, large flowers on a sturdy plant that is hardy to zone 5. No need to deadhead, as the spent flowers look great, too.

Even though these plants aren't in my garden yet, they certainly will be next year. In the meantime, you can check out my garden at [www.allea.com/gardening-ea.htm](http://www.allea.com/gardening-ea.htm).

Drought and heat tolerance are important considerations in many regions. It's great to have plants that can withstand tough conditions, and several introductions from Selecta First Class promise to deliver. Known for their award-winning *Mini-famous Double Calibrachoa*, Selecta has introduced a drought-tolerant petunia that blooms best when dry. The *Soleil Purple Petunia* loves sun and tolerates heat. It's the perfect plant when you go on vacation because it recovers well when dried out.

*Evelyn Alemanni is a gardener, artist, website developer, writer and more, and tends to a garden in Southern California that has appeared frequently in the pages and on the covers of many national publications. She is also a judge for the America in Bloom community enhancement program, and visited St. Louis a couple years ago to share her enthusiasm about that program with many St. Louis organizations. She is also a frequent contributor of her wonderful garden and flower photos to this magazine.*

#### Advertorial

## Saving water never looked so good!



The Algreen Cascata rain barrel can help prevent harmful groundwater run-off and can look aesthetically-pleasing at the same time.

**ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI** — The installation of a rain barrel minimizes the amount of raw sewage that enters rivers and lakes, and reduces the consumption of water.

Usually, rainfall soaks into vegetation and slowly flows underground. The natural process of water soaking into the earth is destroyed when land is covered with buildings, roads and parking lots. Groundwater

run-off from downspouts enters sewers and carries sediments and pollutants that, without natural filtration, can clog streams, reduce oxygen in waterways and poison aquatic ecosystems.

To further compound the problem, many sewage systems combine household sewage with storm water. Older sewage systems cannot handle large volumes of water. This poses a large problem after a heavy rainfall, when sewage can get dumped, untreated, into rivers and lakes.

One way you can eliminate harmful storm water run-off is to invest in a rain barrel. Collecting rainwater during a storm reduces the load on the sewer system. Watering a lawn with stored rainwater allows it to go through nature's filtration system, before being added back to the water table.

The use of a rain barrel will also help you to reduce your water bill. The rain barrel acts as a self-sustaining source of water for your lawn and

#### Algreen rain barrels available at these retail locations:

Bowood Farms .....	4605 Olive St. ....	St. Louis, MO .....	314-454-6868
Crabapple Cove Nursery.....	6961 Telegraph Rd.....	St. Louis, MO .....	314-846-4021
For the Garden by Haefner's .....	6703 Telegraph Rd.....	St. Louis, MO .....	314-846-0078
Garden Heights Nursery.....	1605 S. Big Bend Blvd. ....	St. Louis, MO .....	314-645-7333
Greenscape Gardens.....	2832 Barrett Station Rd ....	Manchester, MO .....	314-821-2440
Haegle Nursery.....	6043 Lemay Ferry Rd .....	St. Louis, MO .....	314-894-8692
Hartke Nursery .....	1030 N. Warson Rd.....	St. Louis, MO .....	314-997-6679
Hillermann Nursery .....	2601 E. 5th St .....	Washington, MO .....	636-239-6729
OK Hatchery.....	115 E. Argonne .....	Kirkwood, MO .....	314-822-0083
Plantscape Nursery .....	720 N. 33rd St .....	Herrin, IL .....	618-942-4865
Rolling Ridge Nursery .....	60 North Gore .....	Webster Groves, MO .....	314-962-3311
Sandy's Back Porch.....	2004 West Blvd .....	Belleville, IL .....	618-235-2004
Sappington Garden Shop .....	11530 Gravois Rd.....	St. Louis, MO .....	314-843-4700
Summerwinds Nursery.....	54 Clarkson Rd .....	Ellisville, MO .....	636-227-0095
Summerwinds Nursery.....	3230 Technology Dr.....	Lake Saint Louis, MO.....	636-561-3419
The Garden Kingdom.....	3711 S. State Route 157.....	Glen Carbon, IL.....	618-288-0101
World Outdoor Emporium West....	1307 Granville Drive .....	Wentzville, MO.....	636-327-6000

garden. One way to approximate water collection from a single rainfall is to multiply the square footage of your roof by 0.6 times the inches of rain.

For those who have breathtaking gardens, rain barrels can also help to accentuate your backyard décor. The depicted Algreen Cascata rain barrel is very elegantly designed

with smooth clay-like contours and elegant planters on top. While designed to look like terracotta, the Algreen Cascata is made of a thick, durable, lightweight plastic. It includes standard features such as a corrosion-proof screen guard (to keep mosquitoes out) and an overflow valve to allow for multiple unit hookups.