

HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER

Jason Graves, Central Kansas District, Horticulturist

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New Plants for a New Year

It seems like there isn't much to do this time of year when it comes to the lawn and garden, but getting a jump on the next growing season can be done anytime.

January is a slow month, but don't let that diminish your enthusiasm too much. There are seed catalogs coming out soon, and this means it is time to find out what new plants will be available for the year. Take time to browse and look for new and improved plants that might be a good fit for your particular likes.

The All America Selections are already being revealed for 2011. There are a several plants that might be of interest to you including: Gaillardia 'Arizona Apricot' (the AAS Flower Award Winner) and Viola 'Shangri-La Marina' F1 (the AAS Cool Season Bedding Plant Award Winner.)

Here are descriptions of the plants from the All America Selections website.

Gaillardia 'Arizona Apricot' offers a new and unique apricot color for this class. Blooms have yellow edges that deepen to a rich apricot in the center. Judges noted the award-winning distinctive flower color of the 3 to 3.5 inch daisy-like flowers, described as exceptionally lovely and lighter in color than traditional gaillardia. Just 105 days after sowing seed, this Gaillardia x grandiflora will bloom from early summer into autumn. The compact 12-inch tall plants offer bright green foliage and a tidy uniform habit best viewed when planted to the front of the flower bed.

This winning Viola cornuta is an early-flowering, mounding viola in a vibrant new color for this type. In trials, the 6-inch tall plants kept a low-growing mounding habit. Colorful and prolific 1.25 inch blooms have light blue petals with a velvety dark blue face that is surrounded by a narrow white border. Judges noted earlier (70 days from sowing to first flower) and showier blooms with noticeable drive-by flower power. Flower color was a consistent deep Marina blue throughout the season. This vigorous frost-tolerant biennial provides a solid mat of fall color until covered with snow followed by a great recovery in spring.

There are also two new cherry tomato varieties that look to do very well in containers and hanging baskets. 'Lizzano' F1 and 'Terenzo' F1 are the variety names to look for. 'Lizzano' is the first Late Blight tolerant cherry fruited semi-determinate variety on the market. These might be something of interest to those who have very little space with which to garden or who just want try something different.

There will also be a great local opportunity to discover new planting ideas soon. Many of you are familiar with Arnold's Green House in LeRoy, Kansas. Rita Arnold will be in Salina on January 27th to present new and exciting plants for the 2011 Growing Season. The presentation will be at the Salina Public Library in the Prescott Room from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The presentation is free and open to anyone, but please let us know if you are coming so that we can have enough hand-out material prepared. You can contact the K-State Research and Extension Office at 785-309-5850 or send an email to jlgraves@ksu.edu to confirm your attendance.



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