

What's new for 2011

By Scott Hininger  
University of Wyoming  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Sheridan County  
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A new theme or at least one that is gaining more popularity is vertical gardening. Many people do not have the space or want to take up a lot of space or they want to dress up a wall. This type of planting can use many types of plants such as the traditional use of vines. However, many plants that can be grown on a wall are edible and can add color and texture. This can be done on the main level or on different levels such as balconies or decks.

Instead of thinking about using just vines such as pole beans or peas, a bracket system set against a wall can hold treys of vegetables or herbs. A wall on a deck could support many treys and the floor space is minimal compared to what the space would be if all the treys were laid out on the deck or the amount of pots that would be needed. This system is much more efficient use of space and can really dress up an area.

What about adding some color to or at least some different colors to our vegetables this year. Such as 'Watermelon' heirloom radishes, these radishes look just like baby watermelons. How about the deep purple 'Amethyst' dwarf strangles beans. If you have had problems with tomato diseases try, a disease resistant variety such as 'Defiant PhR' this tomato is medium sized and resistant to late blight and to early blight. Another tomato to look for is the 'Orange Wellington' which has 12 oz fruit and is a mid season variety that is nearly seedless. Then there is the red colored 'Kalibos' cabbage.

There are many new varieties of landscaping plants coming out this year. A lime green hydrangea 'Jane' which is zone rated three and grows three to five feet high, with lime-green blooms which turn to a pink color. Another hydrangea variety is 'Bella Anna' with a zone rating of four, growing three to five feet high and having magenta-pink blooms from midsummer to fall, so a longer flowering season. The individuals looking for vines and who like wisteria a new variety called 'Blue Moon' which is zone rated three not too aggressive of a grower but still reaching around 25 feet long, with fragrant lavender-blue flowers, would do well on most arbors.

For the evergreen market is a couple of low growing ones which should have some real uses in our area, since I really like ground covers. 'Niagara Falls' is a very low growing weeping white pine that is zoned three and makes quite a nice flowing look. The next one is 'Gold Strike' a low growing juniper zone rated three with a spreading form and brilliant chartreuse needles in the spring which turn to a coral tone in the fall.

I am a big fan of coneflowers and a new variety called 'Flame Thrower' zone rated four, and has very bright orange flowers, which would make quite the presentation if planted in a mass. I also really like blue grama grass as a warm season ornamental grass. The new variety is called 'Blonde Ambition' is zone rated four and has a chartreuse flower head and this plant will be taller than most blue grama grass at two feet tall. This plant also made it into the 2011 plant select release, meaning it

has been recommended by the Denver Botanical garden, Colorado State University, and the horticulture trade (Plant Select Committee) making it a best selection for Wyoming.

I will be describing more plant selections in upcoming articles to wet everyone's appetite for this spring planting season.

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