**New and Exciting Perennials**

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Jean’s - The Right Plant Place

Perennials are our passion at Jean’s - The Right Plant Place! Annuals are nice for long-term color, but in the long run, many perennials are lower maintenance, plus they are a great investment. It doesn’t matter if you are a novice or if you are an experienced gardener—there are perennials out there that will fit your particular gardening needs.

We usually carry around 150 new perennial varieties each season. Today we will show you a sample of the new varieties we have coming in 2018.

**Perennials for Shade/Part Shade:**

*Aconitum* ‘Royal Flush’: This variety of monkshood has an abundance of dark blue hooded flowers in mid-late summer. The thick leaves emerge red early and change to dark green later in the season. The plants reach 40-48” and thus make an impressive specimen in the shade garden. Like all aconitums, all parts of the plant are poisonous, so keep that in mind if you have pets or small children. Zone 3.

*Heucheras, Heucherellas, and Tiarellas:* Coral bells, foamy bells, and foamflowers are an intriguing group of plants. They have low mounded green, bronzed, or silver-overlay foliage topped by delicate red, white, or pink flower spikes. *Heucheras* tend to tolerate more sun, whereas *Tiarellas* need a little more shade. A must for any shade garden! New in 2018 are *Heuchera* PRIMO™ ‘Wild Rose’ with prominent dark veins in rosy purple leaves, and *Heuchera* PRIMO™ ‘Twist of Lime’ with wavy chartreuse leaves. Heucherellas are crosses between Heucheras and Tiarellas and produce pretty, starry, bell-shaped flowers in spikes; *Heucherella* ‘Eye Spy’ (10”) has amber leaves with deep rose centers that age to chartreuse with a silver overlay; this variety also has long-blooming bubblegum pink flowers. The leaves of *Tiarella* ‘Cutting Edge’ have dramatic, dark burgundy centers; its creamy bottlebrush-like flowers last most of the summer. Zone 4.

*Hosta:* We have to talk about hostas! Why? They are low maintenance, easy to grow, drought tolerant—the list goes on! Here are just a few of the new varieties we will carry this year (all of which have lavender flowers). .

* *H. ‘*Bobcat: 30”W x 12”H. Tetraploid sport of *H.* ‘Wolverine’. Elongated gray-green leaves have wide yellow margins that turn white later in the season..
* *H.* ‘Midwest Magic’: 47”W x 21”H. Gold-centered, shiny leaves with dark green margins.
* *H.* ‘Monster Ears’: 19”W x 13”H. This medium-sized sport of *H.* ‘Sunset Grooves’ has very round, green leaves.
* *H.* ‘School Mouse’: 12”W x 8”H. This sport of *H.* ‘Church Mouse’ has thick, wavy blue-green leaves with creamy yellow margins.
* *H.* ‘Waterslide’: 32”W x 14”H. Wavy, ruffled blue leaves make this hosta look like water splashing in the garden. Its thick leaves may make it more slug resistant than some other varieties.

*Hydrangea* Invincibelle Mini Mauvette™ 'NCHA7': This compact relative of the hardy, classic ‘Annabelle’ produces deep pink-mauve blossoms held up on study stems. Because it reblooms, it has a long-flowering season and makes great cut flowers! 30-36”. Zone 3.

*Ligularia*: These unique plants really make a statement in your shade garden. New this year is *L.* ‘Twilight,’ a compact variety (20-24”) with yellow, daisy-like flowers over mahogany foliage. Ligularias require very moist soil and wilt in the sun, so plant them where they will be protected. Zone 4.

*Pulmonaria* ‘Twinkle Toes’: Lungworts have both lovely flowers and interesting foliage. Periwinkle-blue flowers bloom mid-spring. As they fade, enjoy its dark green leaves that are lightly sprinkled with silver. Zone 3.

*Saxifraga x arendsii* ‘Touran™ Scarlet’. New 2018. 4-6” tall x 6-12” wide. This cool-season alpine perennial provides an abundance of scarlet red flowers in early spring. The evergreen foliage adds to its interest even when not flowering. Does not like drought or hot weather. Zone 3.

*Thalictrum delavayi* ‘Album’ (Meadow Rue): Clouds of tiny white flowers form mid-summer amid delicate ferny foliage. This versatile perennial is large, reaching 4-5’, so it makes wonderful backdrop in either sun or shade. Zone 4.

*Tricyrtis* (Toad lily): These interesting plants have green, somewhat fuzzy leaves with spotted, orchid-like flowers. *T. hirta* ‘Miyozaki Hybrids’ is a taller variety, reaching 3’; its flowers are purple-freckled, *T.* ‘Moonlight Treasure’ has soft yellow flowers and is much more compact, growing to only 8”. These plants will bloom fairly late in the season, providing interest when other plants are past their prime.

**Perennials for Sun:**

*Asclepias:* Planting for pollinators is more important than ever! *A. tuberosa* (butterfly weed) is aptly named, as they are butterfly magnets. *A. tuberosa* ‘Blonde Bombshell’produces bright golden-yellow flowers; *A. tuberosa* ‘Gay Butterflies’ produces a mix of colors, ranging from yellow to orangish-red.

*Baptisia:* False indigo is a member of the pea family, which will be apparent when the petals fall and the black pods develop. *B.* ‘American Goldfinch’ (30-36”) has long-lasting golden yellow flowers spikes, while *B.* ‘Pink Lemonade (36”) has bi-colored yellow flowers that age to raspberry purple. Zone 4.

*Dianthus:* Pinks start blooming early and many continue to bloom throughout the summer. New this year is *D.* ‘Scarlet Fever’ (16-20”), an upright panicle-type with bright red-orange flowers, and *D.* ‘Double Bubble’, (6-8”), with vibrant, double pink flowers. Great for borders and rock gardens! Zone 4.

*Digitalis purpurea ‘*Dalmation Purple Improved’: This foxglove variety blooms earlier and is more vigorous than older varieties. Large spikes of purple flowers with maroon spotted throats form on sturdy, upright stems in early summer. 24-36”. Zone 4.

*Echinacea:* Coneflowers are found in a rainbow of colors, including yellow, orange, green, and rose-colored flowers, and a series of pom-pom varieties. One of the pom-pom types is *E.* ‘Mini Belle’ (18”, bright pink flowers). The more traditional varieties include *E.* ‘Green Twister’ (36-48”) with horizontal petals with lemon-green edges extending to bright red centers, and *E.* ‘Playful Meadow Mama’ (18-24”); its giant two-toned flowers are pink with white tips and are fluted on one end. Zone 4.

*Gaillardia* ‘Sun Devil’:

Grasses: Ornamental grasses provide interest all season (even in the winter if you leave them up). *Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Little Miss’ is a dwarf variety (24-36”) that has intense red color in the fall and fluffy plumes that holds through the winter (Zone 4). *Sporobolus* ‘Gone with the Wind’ (Prairie Dropseed) is shorter than other varieties at 36-40” but has the same airy, flower panicles (Zone 3). *Hakonechloa macra* SunFlare™ gives your shade garden a bright splash of color; foliage is yellow with burgundy tips through most of the season, and red tones are added in the fall (12-18”, Zone 4).

*Heliopsis* ‘Burning Hearts’:

*Hemerocallis:* Zone 3. Called daylilies because each blossom lasts only one day, these blooms will grace your gardens in July or August, depending on the variety. Colors range from whites and yellows to pinks and reds, even a few purples and oranges, and different varieties may be ruffled, have a “spider” look, or even double. Some are fragrant, and others may rebloom if you remove spent flowers. A few of our new varieties include:

* *H.* ‘Storm Shelter’: Mid-season. This fragrant beauty has light purplish pink tall petals, a merlot wine eye and edge trimmed in white above a green throat. 24”. Dormant.
* *H.* ‘Pink Stripes’: Early-mid. Stunning 7” flowers are magenta rose with unusual pink-cream stripes above gold orange throats. 26-30” tall. Dormant
* *H.* Rainbow Rhythm® ‘Orange Smoothie’: Early-mid. Orange mango petals have light rose bands. Fragrant and may rebloom. 24" tall. Dormant.
* *H.* ‘Maestro Puccini’: Mid-season. Wine-purple flowers have a dark purple halo, lemon-yellow throat, and ruffled edges. 28” tall. Evergreen.
* *H.* ‘Heavenly Pink Fang’: Mid-late. Fragrant pink flowers with yellow, toothed edges. May rebloom. 24” tall. Dormant.

*Hibiscus* SUMMERIFIC™ ‘Cherry Choco Latte’: What’s not to love about perennial Hibiscus? 8-9” flowers are white with deep pink veins and a notably large red eye. Dark olive green foliage has bronze highlights. This variety is more compact than some others, reaching ‘only’ 4’ in height! Zone 4.

*Iberis sempervirens* ‘Snowball’: This candytuft has larger white flowers and a more uniform habit (8-10”) than other varieties. It blooms prolifically in spring, then keeps its foliage in a tidy mound all season. It is also tolerant of drought and poor soils. Zone 3.

*Lilium*: Asiatic lilies have flowers that face upright and are not fragrant, while Oriental lily flowers face outward and are fragrant. Some new varieties we are looking forward to include:

* *L.* Asiatic Double ‘Apricot Fudge’: Unusual rose-shaped flowers have upright brown stamens that stand well above the petals. 24-36”. Zone 3.
* *L.* Asiatic ‘Netty’s Pride: This lily has amazing coloring! Its thick white petals have intense black-purple brushmarks, plus white centers with purple freckles. 36-48”. Zone 4.
* *L.* Oriental ‘Jaybird’: Large pink flowers have red stripes, stamens and freckles. 40-44”. Zone 3.
* *L.* Oriental Double ‘My Wedding’: Crisp white flowers have pink-tinged edges and no stamens (so no pollen!). 32-44”. Zone 3.
* *L.* OT ‘Big Brother’: OT lilies are crosses between oriental lilies and trumpet lilies. This giant has enormous lemon-yellow flowers with creamy edges; they may reach 12”! 48-60” tall. Zone 3.

*Nepeta faassenii* ‘Kitten Around’: This adorable catmint is compact, at only 12-14”! It’s covered by purple flower spikes and has aromatic foliage that attracts cats when broken. Its small stature makes it a great plant for containers or borders. Zone 3.

*Penstemon:* Beardtongue is a vastly underused perennial for the sun. *P.* ‘Midnight Masquerade’ has striking dark foliage all season long, but when in bloom, the overall effect is stunning! Lavender-purple flowers have pure white interiors on dark stems. 36-40”. Zone 3.

*Perovskia:* Russian sage makes quite a statement in the garden! *P. atriplicifolia* gets 4-5’ tall and produces tall lavender flower spikes on scented, silver-gray foliage. There are shorter varieties also, such as *P. atriplicifolia* ‘Lacey Blue (18-24”), with a compact habit and long-lasting flowers. Zone 4.

*Phlox:* Garden phlox provide long-term color. The Fashionably Early series gets about 30” tall and blooms 2-3 weeks earlier than most other varieties; it includes several colors including pale lavender (‘Fashionably Early Lavender Ice’), and lavender-pink (‘Fashionably Early Flamingo’). These varieties are stoloniferous, so they don’t clump as much as other types. A new compact variety is *P. paniculata* ‘Bambini® Candy Crush’, reaching only 10-12” tall. It has lovely pink and white pinwheel flowers. Plant garden phlox in full sun and with enough space in between plants to prevent powdery mildew. Zone 4.

*Primula:* Primroses in the Belarina™ series have sizable double flowers that are particularly long blooming. *P. vulgaris* Belarina® Amethyst Ice ‘Kerbelpicotee’ (that’s quite a mouthful!) is new this year and produces clusters of violet-blue double flowers in early spring. At 7-9” tall, they are perfect for woodland or rock gardens; they may benefit from afternoon shade.

*Salvia:* TheFASHIONISTA™ Series of Salvia has large, bold blooms in a variety of colors. *S. ‘*Ballerina Pink’ produces soft pink flowers, while *S.* ‘Pretty in Pink’ has vibrant lavender-pink flowers. Both varieties get 18-20” tall, start blooming in early summer, and maintain their flower spikes through much of the summer. Zone 3.

*Sedum:* Some varieties of sedums are taller, mound-forming plants, while others are shorter (6” tall or less) groundcovers. Most bloom late summer, in shades of white, yellow, pink, rose, and red. Foliage can be green, blue, gold, variegated, or even mahogany, but all are thick and fleshy, making them particularly drought-tolerant. Highlighted are *S.* ‘Class Act (new this year, Zone 4), an upright specimen (16”) with bright pink flowers and *S.* ‘Pure Joy’ (Zone 3), which forms blue-green leaves that are covered by bubblegum-pink flowers in fall. Two new groundcover varieties (4-6”) are *S.* ‘Wildfire’ (New 2018), with rounded, burgundy-red leaves circled in hot pink, and *S*. ‘Little Miss Sunshine’, with bright yellow flowers atop dark green foliage (both Zone 4).

*Sempervivum*: Hens and chicks are drought-tolerant and are widely used in containers as well as in perennial borders. *S.* ‘Peggy’ transitions from purple in spring to deep red to mahogany/brown in the fall. *S.* Chick Charms® ‘Gold Nugget’ has bright gold foliage with red picotee edges. 6-8”. Zone 3.

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