

Summer 2012

the magazine for success in the garden

PROVEN BEAUTY®

All Dolled Up

Wild Attraction



**Star-Spangled
Summer Celebrations**

SUMMER IS HERE.

It's the time when your garden glows with bright sunshine and brighter blooms; it's also the pinnacle of the outdoor party season, with graduations, weddings, picnics, and patriotic celebrations filling the calendar. It's no coincidence, then, that it's the perfect time to gather in the garden with family and friends.

The Fourth of July and Canada Day are right around the corner. In this issue of *Proven Beauty*, we share with you some colorful ways to show off your patriotic spirit by decorating your home in the colors of the Stars & Stripes or the Maple Leaf (see pages 6 and 7) and by celebrating with delicious patriotic recipes (see pages 8 and 9). Don't forget to invite wildlife to your garden party, too, by selecting some refreshments for them as well (see pages 12 and 13).

Cheers to a sunny summer with beautiful gardens filled with your loved ones.

Happy Gardening,



Danielle Ernest
Editor



**Download a pdf of this issue
by clicking here.**

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Proven Beauty is an emagazine devoted to educating and inspiring gardeners. It is published four times a year. Send comments, questions, or story ideas to danielle@provenwinners.com.

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Wherever You Grow

We have gardening gurus who grow with you

Want ideas from gardeners who live and garden in your region? Look no further than the Proven Winners Wherever You Grow blogsit. We have nine bloggers who share their gardening expertise every month. Not only will you enjoy their gardening adventures but you'll pick up tips to help you make the most of your garden – no matter what region of the U.S. and Canada you call home. Here we introduce you to four of our adventurers. [Click here](#) to see what all nine have to say and to add your own comments to their posts.



Amanda Thomsen
is a landscaper by day and blogger by night. "I am half of the stand-up comedy team behind the Good Enough Gardening podcast and also one of the co-authors of 2010's Grocery Gardening. I live in a pup tent in the parking lot of the Chicago Botanic Garden with my family."

Midwest:
Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio



Jenny Peterson
is a garden designer and writer who lives in Austin, Texas. "I love designing small spaces, but this coming year I'm looking forward to moving from a balcony garden to an entire acre! Vegetable gardens and chickens, here I come!"

Southwest:
Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana



Laura Mathews
is a garden writer, designer, photographer, and blogger. "I'm a just plain soil-addicted gardener. When I'm not researching plants and writing about them, I have a grand time replacing my lawn with plants and chickens all over my in-town urban yard."

Northeast:
Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware



Laura Thomas
lives in Port Coquitlam, BC, and is a master gardener, photographer, and creator of www.theDandelionWrangler.com. "I love to get my hands dirty in a garden packed full of bold colour."

Western Canada:
Yukon, Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan



Celebrate Summer in Style



Blue Bird Nemesia hybrid

SUPERTUNIA® Red Petunia hybrid

COLORBLAZE® Kingswood Torch
Solenostemon scutellarioides (Coleus)



With summer, comes wedding and anniversary celebrations, pool parties, and family barbecues. All these gatherings with friends and family are the perfect opportunity to create a strong summer theme in your garden.

With so many beautiful flowering options in the patriotic palette, you can create lovely combinations in just one or two of the colors to complement any area where white is the dominant color – whether that's something as expansive as the white exterior of your home or a much smaller outdoor element, such as white patio furniture or a white picket fence.



LAGUNA® Sky Blue
Lobelia hybrid



TUKANA® Scarlet Star
Verbena hybrid





Red, White, & You

The colors of patriotic celebrations are a natural fit with your summer garden. As you can see, Proven Winners grows an extensive list of heat-loving, easy-to-maintain plants in colors that celebrate the history of the United States and Canada.

Use the photos shown here to provide some inspiration for your own landscape firework display, and then check the accompanying list of plants to be sure you have some of the highest-quality varieties for your outdoor salute.

Children love this holiday, so take the opportunity to get their red, white, and blue ideas to add to the garden. It's a great way to teach them about gardening, to give them a sense of pride in growing and caring for plants, and to have some fun together as a family.

The Plant List

RED

SUPERBELL® Red *Calibrachoa hybrid*
ROCKAPULCO® Red *Impatiens walleriana*
SUNSATIA® Cranberry *Nemesia hybrid*
INFINITY® Cherry Red *New Guinea Impatiens*
DAREDEVIL® Claret *Pelargonium zonale*
DAREDEVIL® Fire *Pelargonium zonale*
SUPERTUNIA® Red *Petunia hybrid*
COLORBLAZE® Kingswood Torch
Solenostemon scutellarioides (*Coleus*)
TUKANA® Scarlet *Verbena hybrid*
TUKANA® Scarlet Star *Verbena hybrid*

[MORE RED PLANTS](#)

WHITE

ANGELFACE® White *Angelonia hybrid*
SUPERBELL® White *Calibrachoa hybrid*
ROCKAPULCO® White *Impatiens walleriana*
LAGUNA® White *Lobelia hybrid*
SNOW PRINCESS® *Lobularia hybrid*
DAREDEVIL® White *Pelargonium zonale*
SUPERTUNIA® White *Petunia hybrid*
INTENSIA® White *Phlox hybrid*
SNOWSTORM® GIANT SNOWFLAKE® *Sutera hybrid*
TUKANA® White *Verbena hybrid*

[MORE WHITE PLANTS](#)

BLUE

ANGELFACE® Blue *Angelonia hybrid*
SUPERBELL® Blue *Calibrachoa hybrid*
LAGUNA® Sky Blue *Lobelia hybrid*
LUCIA® Dark Blue *Lobelia hybrid*
Blue Bird *Nemesia hybrid*
SUPERTUNIA® Indigo Charm *Petunia hybrid*
INTENSIA® Blueberry *Phlox hybrid*
NEW WONDER® *Scaevola aemula*
SUMMER WAVE® Blue *Torenia hybrid*
SUPERBENA® Dark Blue *Verbena hybrid*

[MORE BLUE PLANTS](#)



Patriotic Picnicking

You've invited the guests, manicured the lawn, and watered the flowers. The kids have made the decorations and planned the games. So what's left? Creating a patriotic menu to add to the celebration. Here are some delicious, colorful, and festive recipes that your guests will rave about.

Patriotic Punch

Ingredients:

2 cups red raspberries

12 lemons

1½ cup sugar

1 to 2 dozen Borage flowers

Directions:

Juice lemons, set aside. Place 1 ½ cups of the berries in a pan with ¾ of a cup of water. Place over medium heat for about 10 minutes while mashing berries. Strain and return liquid to pan. Add lemon juice and sugar. Heat until sugar is dissolved. Allow mixture to cool. Dilute with ice and water to taste. Float edible flowers and remaining berries on top. Makes 10-12 servings.



STAR-SPANGLED SALAD

Star-Spangled Salad

Ingredients:

Baby spinach (or Arugula), washed
1 small seedless watermelon, cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1" thick slices
1 bunch fresh basil, sliced into long strips
Crumbled feta cheese
Balsamic or reduced-fat balsamic vinegar
Olive oil
Freshly ground black pepper and salt

Directions:

Use a small star cookie cutter to punch out watermelon stars. Place $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of balsamic in a shallow pan on low heat until significantly thickened. Mix balsamic with olive oil and add salt and pepper to taste. Combine all ingredients and drizzle dressing over top.

Freedom Tart

Ingredients:

1 pre-made pie crust
Fresh berries (red raspberries, blackberries, and blueberries)
Raspberry jam
Simple cheesecake filling:
6 oz. package of cream cheese, softened
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
2 large eggs
 $\frac{1}{2}$ t. vanilla extract

Directions:

In medium bowl, with mixer at low speed, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth, occasionally scraping bowl with rubber spatula. Add eggs and extract; beat just until combined. Pour into pie crust and bake at 350° for 20 minutes. Let cool completely. Arrange berries on top of the filling. Warm jam in a pan, thin if necessary. Brush jam over berries. Chill until serving.



FREEDOM TART



ASK THE EXPERT

Ruth Rogers Clausen is an experienced, award-winning garden writer and the author of *50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants*.

The former horticulture editor for *Country Living Gardener*, Ruth is also the author of *Perennials for American Gardens* and *Dreamscaping*. She gardens in Westchester County, New York, where deer abound.

PROVEN BEAUTY: Many gardeners erect fences to keep deer out of their gardens. What other natural barriers and techniques can gardeners use to discourage deer?

RUTH ROGERS CLAUSEN: One of the best ways to deter deer is to block their view and path of entry. Many people plant barriers of deer-resistant shrubs, such as thorny hardy orange or tall cultivars of Japanese spirea such as the old-fashioned 'Anthony Waterer'. In front, plant some of the shorter cultivars: 'Neon Flash' or purple-leaved **Double Play® Artist**, for instance. Another way to block their view is to build berms and walls and plant on top. Deer won't be able to see the succulent buffet you have just planted. Because deer like soft lush succulent growth for dinner, grow your plants hard. By that I mean don't overfertilize or overwater. Sometimes you find that deer nip off the soft young growth even of "deer-resistant" plants like boxwood, but once the stems get woody and hard they leave them alone.

Other techniques are (1) keep your lawn short and pick up any apples and acorns that drop in autumn as these are favorite foods that will attract deer, and (2) plant in containers that can be situated close to the house or in hanging baskets.

The lush vegetable garden is very hard to protect without fencing, so I recommend installing a 4' high double fence 3-4' apart and planting ornamental sages, oreganos, onions (edible and ornamental), and garlic between them. All these plants are resistant to deer – and smell good, too.

PB: What are the best plants to include in your garden to deter the deer population?



Ruth Rogers Clausen

RRC: Deer-resistant plants have one of the following characteristics: aromatic foliage (Yarrows), a poison substance (Hellebores), fuzzy, unpalatable leaves (Lamb's ears), or a rough, bristly texture (Siberian bugloss). Ornamental grasses, including look-alike sedges (Carex) and ferns, are plants that deer seldom browse.

PB: What plants are deer favorites that gardeners should avoid?

RRC: The "deer candy" list is long. At the top of the list are hostas and daylilies – think soft, succulent growth! Roses are also a favorite food in spite of the thorns, but mostly the *Rosa rugosa* types are ignored. Lilies, hydrangeas, blueberries, coleus, tulips, and summer phlox are very palatable to deer and, of course, all the fruiting crops like apples, pears, and strawberries, and salad foliage crops.

PB: How can you incorporate style in your garden and still make it deer resistant?

RRC: The best way is to grow plants that deer mostly avoid. Style is really the way you put combinations of plants together. For example, you might plant blue false indigo or one of its fabulous cultivars as the main player in a vignette. Underplant with yellow lily leeks, blue glory-of-the-snow, and daffodils that can be selected for bloom time from early to late spring. As those fade, the emerging blue-green shoots of the false indigo push up to hide the ripening bulb foliage. Alongside, you can plant some long-blooming yellow yarrows that have highly aromatic, attractive ferny leaves. The foliages will contrast nicely in color and texture. Continue building on this theme. Perhaps add a couple of butterfly bushes (I like **English Butterfly™ Adonis Blue™** Butterfly Bush and the low hybrid **Lo & Behold® 'Blue Chip'**) for mid- to late summer color, followed by bluebeard. Of course, change the color schemes to whatever you find pleasing but really rely on the basic concepts of design.

GREAT GARDEN DISCOVERIES

Deer-resistant products Ruth recommends:



I do not use liquid repellents personally, except from a spray bottle for spot repelling. I use **Country Fare Super Multi Mix Natural Organic Deer/Insect Repellent**



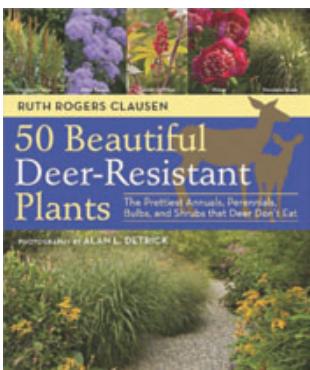
The granular products I like include **Liquid Fence Deer & Rabbit Repellent**.



Liquid Fence has many repellent products, both liquid and granular.



Deer Scram is granular and works well for me too.



Order Ruth's book,
**50 Beautiful
Deer-Resistant
Plants**



Probably the best deterrent is having a dog or maybe two to patrol the property. Dogs and deer are seldom good companions.



Deer-Resistant Plants

Adding the right plants to your garden can deter deer.

Wild Attraction

Plant flowering shrubs to attract wildlife



Top row, left: DOUBLE PLAY™ Big Bang *Spiraea*; Top row, center: BERRY NICE® *Ilex verticillata*; Middle row, center: VANILLA SPICE® *Clethra alnifolia*; Middle row, right: LAVENDER CHIFFON™ *Hibiscus syriacus*; Bottom row, left: BLUE MUFFIN® *Viburnum dentatum*; Bottom row, right: SUNSHINE BLUE® *Caryopteris incana*

Do you love butterflies? Do you want to save the bees? Do you enjoy watching the birds and consulting your Audubon guide? Your home can be a haven for birds, bees, and butterflies just by incorporating a few flowering shrubs into the garden.

Butterflies

Butterflies will feel especially welcome if they have sunny perches to warm their wings and water to drink (a shallow pan works well.) Food, of course, is essential. Butterflies appreciate nectar-rich flowering shrubs like Lo & Behold® Butterfly Bush, Sunshine Blue® Caryopteris, Vanilla Spice® Summersweet, and Lavender Chiffon® Rose of Sharon. And don't forget the caterpillars – without food for them, there won't be any butterflies! Salix (Willow), Viburnum, and Amelanchier (Serviceberry) are shrubs that caterpillars like.

Bees

A declining bee population has folks worried, especially those who rely on these little pollinators for crops like apples and cherries. You can do your part by creating a bee habitat in your garden. Don't worry, honeybees are not aggressive – they'll be too busy visiting your flowers to bother you!

Bees like many of the same plants as butterflies and seem to appreciate having a nice selection of varieties in a garden. So mix up your mixed border with lots of different flowers with staggered bloom times. Bees will also appreciate Sunjoy® Barberries, Black Lace™ and Black Beauty™ Elderberries (you'll get fruit, too!), and Double Play® Spirea.



Birds

Berry-producing shrubs are an excellent food source for birds. Elderberry and Winterberry plants produce fruit in late summer and fall. Viburnum and Coralberry are also good berry-producing shrubs. Remember that many berry-producing plants will produce more fruit if planted in groups. This is especially true of Viburnum; Blue Muffin™, for instance, needs to be planted near another variety, like Chicago Lustre®, for good fruit set. Winterberries like Berry Heavy® and Berry Nice® will need a male pollinator ('Jim Dandy') to produce fruit. Coralberry, like Amethyst™, does not need another plant nearby to produce fruit.

And don't forget winter shelter for the birds. Evergreens like Castle Spire® Holly and Soft Serve™ Chamaecyparis provide a valuable retreat in cold weather.



Shrubs can also help you deter unwanted wildlife from your garden. See our Ask the Expert column for ideas on shrubs that discourage deer.

LO & BEHOLD®
'Lilac Chip'
Buddleia



SUMMERIFIC™ 'Berrylicious' Hibiscus

Say Hi to a New Hibiscus

Perennial Varieties Offer Beautiful Blooms Year After Year

Summerific™ Hibiscus is a phenomenal new plant that has the beauty of its tropical cousins but can also weather the colder weather. This perennial series is hardy in Zones 4 to 9 ([Click here](#) to see what zone you live in), which means your garden can be filled with the blooms you see here every year. These plants are incredibly fast growers. So even though they don't emerge from dormancy until late spring, mature plants reach full size and start blooming within a couple of months.

And if that's not enough, here are some other reasons why Summerific is terrific:

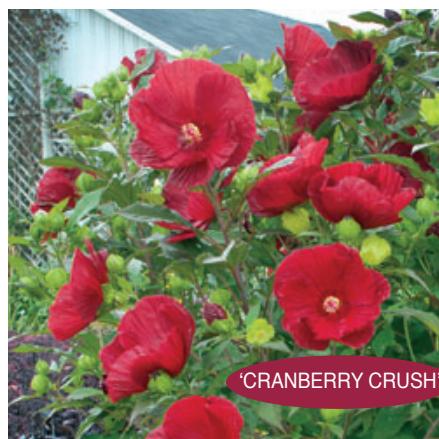
- Summerific blooms three times longer than an average Hibiscus because flowers are produced most of the way up the stems. Since each flower only lasts one day, you need lots of buds to have a long bloom period – and Summerific has a bounty of buds.
- The flowers are some of the largest of any perennials, from 7-10" across depending on variety.
- They begin to flower when other perennials have exhausted their blooms, which adds late summer through fall interest in the garden.
- This series takes up the same amount of space as a shrub in the landscape but has much showier flowers.



SUMMERIFIC™ 'Cranberry Crush' *Hibiscus*



SUMMERIFIC™ 'Summer Storm' *Hibiscus*



To grow these varieties successfully, follow these tips:

1. Grow in full sun and moist, well-drained soil. Keeping these plants watered will result in larger flowers and lush foliage.
2. Plant before the heat of summer arrives.
3. Mulch heavily the first winter.
4. In spring, cut back any remaining stems before new growth appears. You'll need a strong pair of loppers or a saw.

Here's what you need to know about the different growing habits of the three plants shown above:

'Berrylicious' has a beautiful bushy habit and lavender blooms, which is rare.

'Cranberry Crush' is the smallest, most compact habit of the three with gorgeous red flowers.

'Summer Storm' is the largest of the bunch, with dark foliage and a super long bloom time.



Summit Ridge (above) –
ILLUSION® Garnet Lace *Ipomoea batatas*,
GRACEFUL GRASSES® VERTIGO® *Pennisetum purpureum*, and SUPERTUNIA® White and
SUPERTUNIA® White Russian *Petunia* hybrids

Neutral Knockouts

Bright colors aren't the only way to add style to summer gardens

Supertunia® White Russian is the perfect plant for neutral elegance. With its antique white petal, dark chocolate veins, and dark eye, this plant provides lots of design options, especially in containers. You can choose a mix-and-match approach with various sizes, shapes, and groupings of containers that complement the color of your brick, siding, or deck and the architectural detail and style of your space.

Make an even more powerful statement by contrasting foliage and flowers. Here the shape, height, color, and texture of Graceful Grasses® Vertigo®, for instance, adds a stately element when combined with White Russian. Plus, both plants are exceptional performers. And the smaller container, shown here, features the addition of another strong grower, Illusion® Garnet Lace, which creates additional visual interest. This mocha-colored palette also transitions well to the fall.



Vanilla Truffle –
ILLUSION® Garnet Lace *Ipomoea batatas* and SUPERTUNIA® White and
SUPERTUNIA® White Russian *Petunia* hybrids



ALL DOLLED UP

Introduce children to the joy of dollmaking – gardening style. All you need are hollyhock blooms, a box of toothpicks, and a pair of scissors.

Here's how easy it is:

1. Gather hollyhock blooms of different colors, sizes, and bud opening levels.
2. Remove the stamens from the flowers.
3. Use toothpicks to build the doll. Skirts can be built with just one flower or three or four in different colors. A small, unopened bud makes the perfect doll head.
4. Use scissors to shorten toothpicks when needed. Be sure an adult assists to ensure safety.
5. Experiment with even smaller buds for arms or opened blooms for umbrella or hat accessories.



With a little time and imagination, who knows what beautiful dolls your children can design – and how much fun they can have designing and playing with them.

For more information on this great “natural” craft and other flower fun, visit the following links:

[HOLLYHOCK
HOW-TO GUIDE](#)

[HOLLYHOCK
HOW-TO VIDEO](#)

[FLOWERED
PLACEMATS](#)

[FLOWER
CROWNS](#)

[FRESH FLOWER
POTPOURRI](#)

Let's Be Friends!

If you love gardening and want to be among the first to know the latest plants, tips, and ideas from Proven Winners, be sure to like us on Facebook. And if you're a fan of innovative, top-performing shrubs, join the Facebook group for Proven Winners ColorChoice shrubs. And when you want to weigh in on your favorite plants or other garden topics, post to our Facebook page to share your thoughts with other Proven Winners fans.

Friends help friends make the most of their garden.

Proven Winners facebook

Proven Winners ColorChoice facebook



The screenshot shows the Proven Winners Facebook page. The cover photo features a close-up of vibrant pink flowers. A call-to-action box in the top right corner encourages users to "Sign Up" or "Log In" to connect with Proven Winners. The page itself has a blue header with the "facebook" logo. The main content area shows the Proven Winners logo and the text "The #1 Plant Brand". Below this, a "About" section describes Proven Winners as the leading brand of high-quality flowering plants in North America. The page has 34,659 likes and a "Like" button. A post from "Proven Winners" yesterday asks, "Have problems with deer in your garden? What plant have you tried and what does it do?" The sidebar includes links to "About", "Photos", "Likes", "Events", and "Sneak Peek".



The screenshot shows the Proven Winners ColorChoice Facebook group page. The cover photo features various flowers and plants. A call-to-action box in the top right corner encourages users to "Sign Up" or "Log In" to connect with Proven Winners ColorChoice Flowering Shrubs. The page has a blue header with the "facebook" logo. The main content area shows the Proven Winners logo and the text "COLOR CHOICE". Below this, a "About" section welcomes gardeners and promises to answer questions. The page has 22,069 likes and a "Like" button. A post from "Proven Winners ColorChoice Flowering Shrubs" yesterday asks, "Caretakers welcome! Post any question about plants and gardening on our wall and we'll do our best to answer in a timely manner. You can also reach us on..." The sidebar includes links to "About", "Photos", "Likes", "Welcome", and "Showcase".

