

Early Spring 2013

the magazine for success in the garden

# PROVEN BEAUTY®



**New Plants for 2013**

**DIY Projects for Kids & Adults**

**Decorating: Container Style**

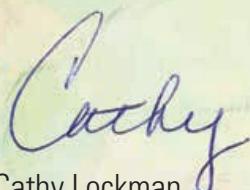
# NEW IDEAS FOR A NEW SEASON

There's nothing quite like the promise of spring to inspire us with possibilities. And the garden is one of those places where possibilities know no limits.

In this issue of *Proven Beauty*, you'll see many ideas to jump start your garden planning. From new spring plants to do-it-yourself container projects to advice from a celebrity guru, you'll find plenty of practical and inspirational ways to create a garden that fits your style, your climate, your budget, and your space.

As a *Proven Beauty* reader, you'll be ready to grab your garden gloves and dig right in when Old Man Winter shouts his goodbye and Mother Nature whispers her spring hello.

Happy gardening!



Cathy Lockman  
*Editor*

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

*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 [editor@provenwinners.com](mailto:editor@provenwinners.com).

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**On the Cover –**  
Superbells® Lemon Slice is just one of the many great plants brought to you by Proven Winners. A unique Calibrachoa with a star-shaped yellow bloom, this new introduction is eye-catching from afar and breathtaking up close.

# LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION? GET IT FOR FREE.



With 32 pages of colorful plants and creative ideas, you'll find inspiration to guide your gardening for the upcoming season, whether your garden is a small urban balcony or an expansive country retreat. Plus, this FREE *Gardener's Idea Book* doesn't just show you, it teaches you, too, with container recipes, step-by-step makeover instructions, and tips for success.





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# What's New?

## Exceptional Introductions for 2013 from Proven Winners

When you visit your garden center this spring, you'll find some beautiful new Proven Winners varieties to add to your cart. Thirteen of those flowering plants are introduced here. You can learn more about these plants as well as our new shrub and perennial introductions for 2013 by visiting the Proven Winners [website](#).

### 1 SUPERTUNIA® Pink Charm *Petunia hybrid*

Full Sun

A beautiful spreading plant, Pink Charm grows 6 to 10 inches tall but trails to 4 feet making it perfect for the landscape.

### 2 LUSCIOUS® BERRY BLEND™ *Lantana camara*

Full Sun

Big and glorious, Berry Blend can grow to 3 feet tall. It fills containers and landscapes with bright pink and yellow blooms even in the toughest heat.

### 3 SUPERTUNIA® PICASSO IN PINK™ *Petunia hybrid*

Full Sun

If you like Supertunia® Pretty Much Picasso®, you'll love the more subtle color and more compact habit of Picasso in Pink™. It attracts hummingbirds and butterflies, too.

### 4 LUSCIOUS® Piña Colada *Lantana camara*

Full Sun

Rich, dark green foliage is a great contrast to the white blooms with yellow centers that cover this plant. Piña Colada grows vigorously all season.

### 5 SUPERBELLS® Lemon Slice *Calibrachoa hybrid*

Full Sun to Part Shade

You saw its bi-color beauty close up on the Proven Beauty cover. Here you can see how it forms mounds of beautiful lemon and white blooms as it grows.

### 6 COLORBLAZE® MAROONED™ *Solenostemon scutellarioides*

Full Sun to Full Shade

Looking for a dark, dramatic foliage plant that grows between 2 and 3 feet tall? Marooned does just that in the sun or shade.

### 7 SEÑORITA BLANCA™ *Cleome hybrid*

Full Sun

Señorita Blanca has the same exceptional habit and performance of its cousin, Señorita Rosalita®, but with lovely white blooms with a pale lavender blush. A great landscape performer, this beauty has excellent heat and humidity tolerance and flowers all season from last frost to first frost.

### 8 COLORBLAZE® KEYSTONE KOPPER™ *Solenostemon scutellarioides*

Full Sun to Full Shade

This Coleus in rich copper grows beautifully in sun and shade and keeps its strong upright habit all season.

### 9 SUPERTUNIA® Watermelon Charm *Petunia hybrid*

Full Sun

The rich watermelon-toned flowers are accented with a small white eye. This plant loves the heat and the humidity, too.

Upper right, top to bottom: SUPERTUNIA® Pink Charm *Petunia hybrid*, SEÑORITA BLANCA™ *Cleome hybrid*, and SUPERTUNIA® PICASSO IN PINK™ *Petunia hybrid*





#### 10 BLUSHING PRINCESS™ *Lobularia* hybrid

Full Sun to Part Shade

Just like Snow Princess®, Blushing Princess™ is an extremely vigorous grower, but the white blooms of Blushing Princess turn lavender-silver within a day.

#### 11 FROSTY KNIGHT™ *Lobularia* hybrid

Full Sun to Part Shade

The same white bloom color and great performance of Snow Princess®. But Frosty Knight™ stands out with its variegated foliage and its more controlled habit.

#### 12 BLUE MY MIND™ *Evolvulus* hybrid

Full Sun

You've never seen a plant this true blue. The large, stunning blooms appear all summer long, even in the toughest heat.

#### 13 SUPERBENA® *Royale Silverdust* *Verbena* hybrid

Full Sun to Part Shade

Butterflies love this fragrant blue-purple beauty and so will you. A vigorous, spreading plant that looks beautiful in the garden all season long.

# Apothecary

## TAKE A NEW LOOK AT AN OLD ENEMY

Does the sight of dandelions in your well-groomed landscape send you looking for your hoe so you can dig them out and throw them on your compost pile? If so, you might want to reconsider that last step. While you might consider the dandelion a pesky weed, for centuries it's also been considered a nutritious herb with medicinal properties. In fact, the dandelion leaf and root contain vitamins A, C, D, and B complex as well as iron, magnesium, zinc and several other minerals.

That's why dandelions are used in salads, soups, breads, cakes, and even syrups. Though the root and leaf are bitter, the plant is completely edible and when paired with other ingredients adds a different kick to the recipe. And, for those who enjoy a tasty herbal drink, there's dandelion tea and dandelion wine. As an herbal remedy, the dandelion acts as a diuretic and is used chiefly to keep the urinary system functioning.

If you'd like to try your hand at preparing a dandelion recipe, click these links for ideas and preparation instructions.

[EAT THE WEEDS](#)

[DANDELION RECIPES](#)

To learn more about this age-old plant and its many uses, click the links below.

[DANDELION FACTS](#)

[DANDELION ROOT](#)

Now when you see dandelions in your garden this spring, maybe you'll see them not as a pest but as an opportunity to try something new brought to you by Mother Nature.



The information provided here is for educational purposes only. It has not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration and is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.



A clear blue sky means a glorious day for gardening, and bright blue flowers make that day complete. And if true blue is what you're looking for, Proven Winners has several varieties to choose from. But true blue blooms can be very difficult to breed. Fortunately, Proven Winners is on the leading edge of breeding breakthroughs and as you can see here, brings you the truest, bluest plants on the market.

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Above: BLUE MY MIND™ *Evolvulus hybrid*

Opposite in containers: SUPERBELLS® White *Calibrachoa hybrid*, DIAMOND FROST® *Euphorbia hybrid*, BLUE MY MIND™ *Evolvulus hybrid*, LAGUNA® Sky Blue *Lobelia hybrid*, LUCIA® Dark Blue *Lobelia hybrid*, FROSTY KNIGHT™ *Lobularia hybrid*, and Opal INNOCENCE® *Nemesia fruticans hybrid*





# out of the blue

You can't underestimate the power of one color to transform a garden, especially when that color is blue. Pick plants like Blue My Mind™ Evolvulus, Bluebird Nemesia, and Laguna® Sky Blue and Lucia® Dark Blue Lobelia and match them with glimpses of pure white for a stunning show of garden grace. That white can come in the form of other exceptional plants, like the shrub Little Lime™ or the popular annual Snow Princess®. Antique white accessories, like those shown here, can also create the complement that allows blue to shine through.

For additional interest, add a blue birdbath, gazing ball, or other small garden accents and that's all you need to turn your neighbors blue with envy.



Opposite in the landscape along with other plantings:  
LITTLE LIME™ *Hydrangea paniculata*, LUCIA® Dark Blue *Lobelia* hybrid, with SNOW PRINCESS® *Lobularia* hybrid in the foreground

This page at top: BLUE MY MIND™ *Evolvulus* hybrid, LUCIA® Dark Blue *Lobelia* hybrid, LAGUNA® Sky Blue *Lobelia* hybrid,  
FROSTY KNIGHT™ *Lobularia* hybrid and Opal INNOCENCE® *Nemesia* hybrid

This page lower left: BLUE MY MIND™ *Evolvulus* hybrid

This page lower right: LAGUNA® Sky Blue *Lobelia* hybrid and DIAMOND FROST® *Euphorbia* hybrid

# STYLE & SUBSTANCE

You can have both style and substance when you transform colorful bottles into elegant planters. That's because when you repurpose the glass, you double the environmental benefit – first by thinking green and second by growing green.



STEP-BY-STEP  
INSTRUCTIONS

To make these distinctive planters yourself, you'll need the following supplies:

Glass bottles, thoroughly washed with labels removed  
Bottle cutter  
Sandpaper  
2" x 2" piece of screen  
Cotton rope to act as a wick  
Candle  
Soil  
Small succulent plants or herbs

CLICK HERE FOR  
INSTRUCTIONS





## Color It Spring

Kids will love this new way of decorating eggs and ringing in spring. And the kid in you will love it, too. It's easy, it's colorful, and it's fun.

For the leaf print egg craft, the first step begins outdoors. Collect small, flat leaves with interesting shapes and, if needed, cut the leaves to a size that will fit on the side of the egg. At the same time, cut squares of nylon hosiery two times larger than the hard-boiled egg. Place the leaf on the egg and wrap the hosiery tightly over the egg, securing the ends with rubber bands.

Put the eggs aside as you prepare the dye. First, mix 1/2 cup of warm water and a teaspoon of vinegar in a glass large enough to hold an egg. Next, add drops of food coloring to the water until it creates the color you want. Submerge your leaf-wrapped egg in the colored water for 5 minutes. Remove with a spoon. Unwrap the hosiery from the egg, remove the leaf, and allow the egg to dry.

Let your child arrange the colorful creations in a favorite bowl or basket for a spring display that will catch everyone's eye.



STEP 1



STEP 2

MORE EGG  
CRAFT INFO

# ASK THE EXPERT

**PROVEN BEAUTY:** What gives you the greatest inspiration for your gardening projects?

**AMANDA THOMSEN:** I get the biggest creative bang from repurposing stuff I find on a curb, in a dumpster, or in a thrift store. Once I find the right pieces of junk, everything else sort of falls in place. I'm also big on observing every garden out there, gleaning what's good and cool and figuring out what's for me. Every idea sparks an idea, thankfully!

**PB:** What's the most important thing to remember when designing garden space?

**AT:** For me, I have to consider price and labor. I am my own work force so I can dream as big as I want, but if I don't plan on doing the work – why bother? I'm also big into designing gardens and spaces appropriate to the architecture of my house, which is very mid-century modern. That's a fun challenge!

**PB:** What item in your garden shed can you not live without?

**AT:** I cannot live without my Felco pruners, which I love so much that I've gotten a tattoo of them. I've been using the same \$4 dividing spade for the last 12 years. I don't need a lot of tools, just coffee in the morning and very effective sunblock! I use cheap blue tarps in every way imaginable. I especially love using them for hauling large amounts of materials in one trip by just loading it up and pulling with all my might!

**PB:** What steps do you take before you begin a new gardening project to ensure your success?

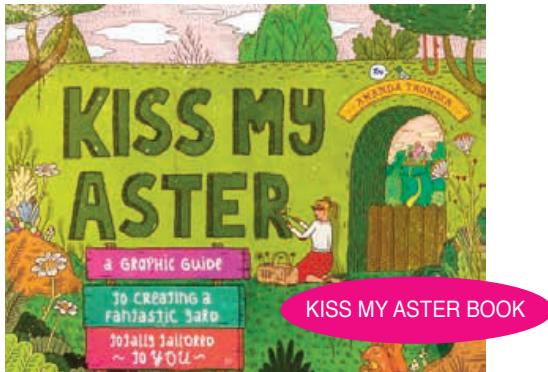
**AT:** I believe in drawing up a plan, even if it's really crude. I also make sure to take LOTS of "before" and "process" photos for when something may not be going as fast as I want it to. It's also a nice reminder of what I have accomplished. I am currently using Pinterest to help me plan a new border garden, too. It's helping me keep plants that I want organized, so that I know where to get them when I'm ready for them.



## Amanda Thomsen

is a landscape designer whose blog, *Kiss My Aster*, can be read at <http://www.kissmyaster.co/>. She is a Master Gardener and has been gardening professionally for over 10 years. She is the author of *Kiss My Aster, A Graphic Guide to Creating a Fabulous Yard* and is the co-author of *Grocery Gardening: Planting, Preparing and Preserving Fresh Food*. She lives in Chicago, Illinois.

# GREAT GARDEN DISCOVERIES



Who cares what the neighbors think? *Kiss My Aster* is a hilarious, irreverent, interactive guide to designing an outdoor space that is exactly what you want.



If you're interested in hydroponics, Amanda suggests trying these simple, yet elegant rootcups.



Amanda recommends this hardcore work apron. "It has amazing pockets and the length for pulling up at the bottom to create a pouch for clippings or harvest when I haven't got anything else around."

# E

nvious of the containers you see in garden centers or in your neighbor's yard? You can have the same great results when you start with the right plants and follow these easy steps. And when you're done, you'll be proud to say that you designed it, planted it, and grew it yourself. And to keep your container looking beautiful, soak the soil thoroughly every day, twice a day if the heat is extreme.

Water directly at the roots rather than over the flowers and foliage of the plants.



Make sure the Proven Winners plants you select have the same light and water requirements. Purchase equal numbers of each – 2 each for a 14" container and 3 or more for larger containers.



Select a favorite container. Make sure it has a drainage hole. Fill it with a quality potting soil. Add Proven Winners time-release plant food.



Choose one variety and plant in opposite sides of the container.



Plant the second variety alternating with the first.



Fill in the container with the third variety. With time, water, and water-soluble Proven Winners plant food, your container will grow into a rich tapestry of color and texture.

Opposite on pedestal: Velvet Skies – BLUSHING PRINCESS™ *Lobularia* hybrid, SUPERTUNIA® Mini Silver *Petunia* hybrid, and SUPERTUNIA® Royal Velvet *Petunia* hybrid  
Opposite, lower right: Simply Divine – INTENSIЯ® Blueberry *Phlox* hybrid, GRACEFUL GRASSES® Red Riding Hood *Pennisetum*, and 'Sweet Caroline Light Green' *Ipomoea batatas*

Gray container set (opposite): Anamese Garden & Home, 800.385.4948, [www.anamese.com](http://www.anamese.com)





Upper left: GRACEFUL GRASSES® VERTIGO® *Pennisetum purpureum*, GRACEFUL GRASSES® Fiber Optic Grass *Scirpus cernuus*, and COLORBLAZE® Dipt in Wine Coleus  
On table and in container at right in front of pedestal: DIAMOND FROST® *Euphorbia hybrid* and GRACEFUL GRASSES® Fiber Optic Grass *Scirpus cernuus*  
On pedestal: Velvet Skies – BLUSHING PRINCESS™ *Lobularia hybrid*, SUPERTUNIA® Mini Silver Petunia *hybrid*, and SUPERTUNIA® Royal Velvet Petunia *hybrid*  
Combination in foreground: Simply Divine – INTENSIЯ® Blueberry Phlox *hybrid*, GRACEFUL GRASSES® Red Riding Hood *Pennisetum*, and 'Sweet Caroline Light Green' *Ipomoea batatas*  
Small urn at right: GRACEFUL GRASSES® Red Riding Hood *Pennisetum*



## ADD COLOR TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Whether you're in the North Woods or the Deep South, your garden design should always start with two considerations: the amount of light that surrounds your landscape and the climate you live in. To be successful, you just match the needs of your outdoor entertaining space with individual tags that accompany each plant. With those parameters in mind, you can begin your search for color. Here you can see how effective a limited color palette can be, especially when you match the bursts of bloom color with fabric and glass accents. Happy outdoor entertaining!

# Perennials for Spring WOW!



If you're looking for bright spring color you can enjoy year after year, perennials provide a variety of great choices. With a wide range of pastel colors that give us a pretty peek into spring to more vibrant hues that make a louder statement, perennials pack a punch. The following list introduces you to several that make their appearances from early to late spring.

For more information on these plants and more about spring perennials, click [here](#).

FLOWERING PERENNIALS

## Perennials for Early Spring Color

- Perennial Alyssum (*Aurinia*) such as Golden Flourish™
- Lenten Roses (*Helleborus*) such as the WINTER THRILLERS™ series
- Bugleweed (*Ajuga*) such as 'Burgundy Glow'
- Rock Cress (*Arabis*) such as Pink Sequins™
- Thrift (*Armeria*) such as the Ballerina series
- Heartleaf Brunnera such as 'Jack Frost'



## Perennials for Mid Spring Color

- Lamium Pink Chablis®
- English Primrose (*Primula*) such as 'Pacific Hybrids'
- Foamflowers (*Tiarella*) such as 'Sugar and Spice'
- Violets (*Viola*) such as 'Etain'



## Perennials for Late Spring Color

- Baptisia DEcadence™ 'Blueberry Sundae'
- Baptisia DEcadence™ 'Dutch Chocolate'
- Baptisia DEcadence™ 'Lemon Meringue'
- Dianthus FRUIT PUNCH™ 'Apple Slice'
- Dianthus FRUIT PUNCH™ 'Black Cherry Wild'
- Dianthus FRUIT PUNCH™ 'Coconut Punch'
- Dianthus FRUIT PUNCH™ 'Pomegranate Kiss'
- Hosta 'Autumn Frost'
- Hosta 'Goodness Gracious'
- Gypsophila Festival Star™
- Iberis Absolutely Amethyst®
- Creeping Phlox such as 'Red Wing'
- Columbine (*Aquilegia*) such as the Pagoda™ series
- Bellflowers (*Campanula*) such as Clips® Blue
- Bleeding Hearts (*Dicentra*) such as 'Gold Heart'
- Cushion Spurge (*Euphorbia*) such as 'Bonfire'
- Tree Peonies (*Paeonia*) such as 'Hoki'
- Oriental Poppies (*Papaver*) such as 'Flamenco Dancer'
- Lungwort (*Pulmonaria*) such as 'Raspberry Splash'



Above, early spring, left to right: GOLDEN FLOURISH™ *Aurinia* and PINK SEQUINS™ *Arabis* Mid-spring, left to right: PINK CHABLIS® *Lamium* and 'Etain' *Viola*  
Late spring, clockwise from upper left: DEcadence™ 'Blueberry Sundae' *Baptisia*, FESTIVAL STAR™ *Gypsophila* hybrid, ABSOLUTELY AMETHYST® *Iberis*, and FRUIT PUNCH™ 'Apple Slice' *Dianthus*  
Opposite: PAGODA™ Pink & White *Aquilegia* (Columbine), POLAR® Pink *Bellis*, Winter Joy *Erysimum*, Blue Violets Pansy, and *Pulmonaria*

# PRUNING PERFECTION



Clockwise from upper left: CHARDONNAY PEARLS® *Deutzia gracilis*, DOUBLE TAKE™ 'Scarlet Storm' *Chaenomeles speciosa* (Quince), SHOW OFF™ *Sugar Baby Forsythia*, PINK HOME RUN® *Rosa x*, BLUE SATIN® *Hibiscus syriacus*, and BOBO™ *Hydrangea paniculata*

Shrubs and pruning go hand in hand – and for many people, the fear of pruning follows close behind. But that changes when you understand a few basic principles of pruning. Here are some simple tips for success:

## Why prune?

The main reason gardeners prune shrubs is to increase flowering. It's a common misconception that shrubs NEED to be pruned – they do not. They may perform or look better when pruned, but it isn't crucial to their survival. If you aren't sure if your shrubs need pruning, simply skip it that year. It's a lot easier to correct a shrub that has been under-pruned than one that was pruned incorrectly.

## When to prune?

**Shrubs that flower in spring** – generally, before June 1 – are pruned after they flower. This includes Double Take™ Quince, Show Off® Forsythia, Chardonnay Pearls® Deutzia, Summer Wine® Ninebark, Bloomerang® Lilac, Double Play® Spiraea, and all Proven Winners Weigela varieties.

**Shrubs that flower in summer** – usually June 1 or later – are pruned once you see the new growth beginning to emerge (March in most areas, earlier in warm climates). This includes Roses, 'Miss Molly' Butterfly Bush, Chiffon™ and Satin® series of Rose of Sharon, and Black Lace™ Elderberry.

**Hydrangeas** – Panicle or Peegee Hydrangeas, like 'Limelight,' Quick Fire®, and Bobo®, flower on new wood so are pruned in early spring, as are Smooth Hydrangeas like Incrediball® and Invincibelle® Spirit. It's best to avoid pruning Big-Leaf Hydrangeas like the Cityline® or Let's Dance® series altogether, as it will affect blooming the following season. If pruning is necessary, however, it should be done in late summer, immediately after they've flowered.

## How to prune

Use a sharp bypass pruner. For plants pruned before they bloom, inspect the stems to find the biggest, healthiest buds and cut back just above those. For those that are pruned after bloom, let shape and size be your guide. Bigger plants can withstand more pruning; dwarf or compact plants like Lo & Behold® Butterfly Bush may require no pruning at all. When in doubt, remove any dead wood first, then up to one-third of the shrub's current height.

RULES OF THUMB FOR PRUNING

HOW TO PRUNE YOUR HYDRANGEA

# OUTDOOR LIVING EXTRAVAGANZA

## A RETREAT WITH PROVEN WINNERS



**Chicago, IL**

March 23, 2013

**Vancouver, BC**

April 20, 2013

For the fifth year, Proven Winners is bringing this enjoyable and educational gardening seminar to three cities across North America. You'll learn from our experts about all the latest new varieties to hit the market for 2013, how to design exceptional containers, and much more. In addition, you'll be treated to a bag of gifts, including a brand new plant for 2013; you'll enjoy a delicious lunch, beverages, and snacks throughout the day; and you'll have plenty of chances to win great prizes. Even your non-gardening friends will enjoy this relaxed and entertaining look at what's new in outdoor decor, Proven Winners style.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### Registration

\$70 per person plus a FREE calendar

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### Includes:

- Catered luncheon
- Gift bag
- Free plant
- Opportunity to win other prizes

Register now to receive a free calendar while supplies last!

CLICK HERE  
TO RESERVE SEAT(S)

or call 877-865-5818.

**PW**  
**PROVEN**  
**WINNERS**<sup>®</sup>

The #1 Plant Brand.<sup>®</sup>

