

20 Top New Annuals (& Warm-Climate Perennials) of 2008

Be the first to grow these brand-new plants, which boast improved garden performance so you can enjoy their great looks all season long.

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Heat- & Drought-Resistant Beauties

Angelface Dark Violet Angelonia

Angelonia is one of our favorite summer annuals. These resilient plants don't care how high the mercury climbs -- they keep blooming all season. This variety is no different, producing snapdragon-like spikes of dark violet-purple flowers that are great for cutting.

Name: *Angelonia* 'Angelface Dark Violet'

Growing Conditions: Full sun and well-drained soil

Size: To 2 feet tall

Zones: Annual outside Zone 10

Grow it for: The wonderful rich purple color and easy-growing nature

Grow it with: Dwarf white cosmos

Source: Proven Winners, www.provenwinners.com

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Little Gems

Bangle Genista

Create a bang in early spring with 'Bangle'. This new plant bears loads of bright yellow flowers at the start of the season and has a nice and low mounding habit.

Name: *Genista lydia* 'Bangle'

Growing Conditions: Full sun and moist, well-drained soil

Size: To 2 feet tall and wide

Zone: 4-9

Grow it for: Its small size works everywhere (even containers) and it's deer resistant

Source: Proven Winners, www.provenwinners.com

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Great-Looking Foliage

Dolce Blackcurrent Coral Bells

We love this plant's look; the purple leaves are marked with silvery accents -- making it an eye-catching addition to any garden (or container planting).

Grow it for: Its wonderful purple leaves

Grow it with: Try it with blue perennial geraniums for a great mix of colors

Name: *Heuchera* 'Dolce Blackcurrent'

Growing Conditions: Sun or shade and moist, well-drained soil

Size: To 16 inches tall

Zones: 4-9

Source: Proven Winners, www.provenwinners.com

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Special Shade Plants

Torenia Catalina White Linen

This is one of our favorite new plants. This shade lover starts blooming in spring and continues all the way through frost. It's a great way to brighten up shady corners -- either in containers or in the ground.

Name: *Torenia* 'Catalina White Linen'

Growing Conditions: Part to full shade and moist, well-drained soil

Size: To 16 inches tall

Zones: Annual outside Zone 10

Grow it for: It's a perfect plant for adding color to shade gardens

Grow it with: Any color impatiens; white goes with anything!

Source: Proven Winners, www.provenwinners.com

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Little Gems

Eye Catcher Weigela

We're not sure what's prettier on this plant -- the springtime dark red flowers or the green foliage with bold, eye-catching edges that looks good every day from spring to fall. Its small size makes it perfect for container gardens, too.

Name: *Weigela florida* 'Eye Catcher'

Growing Conditions: Part shade and moist, well-drained soil

Size: To 2 feet fall and wide

Zone: 4-8

Grow it for: Its small size, attractively variegated foliage, and deer resistance

Source: Proven Winners, www.provenwinners.com

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Heat- & Drought-Resistant Beauties

Luscious Lemonade Lantana

This low-care plant bears loads of golden-yellow flowers all summer long, laughing off periods of heat and drought. Plus, it's a favorite of butterflies and hummingbirds and tends to be deer and rabbit resistant.

Name: *Lantana* 'Luscious Lemonade'

Growing Conditions: Full sun and well-drained soil

Size: To 28 inches tall

Zones: Annual outside Zone 10

Grow it for: It's an award-winning variety that blooms nonstop until frost

Grow it with: Blue salvia -- and watch the butterflies flock to it

Source: Proven Winners, www.provenwinners.com

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Easy-Care Shrub Rose

Oso Easy Peachy Cream

This little shrub rose is so easy to grow you'll hardly think of it as a rose at all. The peachy blooms fade to cream as they age and continue to appear all summer long on an incredibly disease-resistant plant.

Grow it for: Its peachy color and no-fuss growing needs

Name: Rosa 'Oso Easy Peachy Cream'

Size: To 3 feet tall

Growing Conditions: Full sun and well-drained soil

Fragrance: None

Zone: 5-9

Source: Proven Winners, www.provenwinners.com

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Heat- & Drought-Resistant Beauties

Totally Tempted Cuphea

This new variety offers wild crimson-red flowers marked with a spot of dark purple in the center. While they look great, they're also incredibly heat and drought resistant -- making it a perfect plant for gardeners just about everywhere.

Name: *Cuphea llavea* 'Totally Tempted'

Growing Conditions: Full sun and well-drained soil

Size: To 1 foot tall

Zones: Annual

Grow it for: It's a tough plant and nonstop bloomer

Grow it with: 'Black Pearl' ornamental pepper for an amazing color combo

Source: Proven Winners, www.provenwinners.com

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