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UT GARDENS**

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THE GARDEN POST

From the President

Volume 13 No 3 March 2006

Some of you may know that I've been the Friends' President before—in the two years of 1998-1999, our organization's seventh and eighth years. I am privileged to serve again in 2005-06, our organization's 13th and 14th years. (Although I'm learning to view with some wariness any co-occurrence of the numbers 7 and 13!)

The first phone call I received after election in 1998 was from Dr. Don Williams. With barely an introduction, he launched into a painstaking description of a new project he had planned for the Gardens. He spoke with unmistakable pride of the students whom he would lead in that work, and he reported that he had almost all of the donors lined-up to fund materials for its completion. He needed just a bit more money and wondered whether I could enlist the Friends to raise the remainder—and then he apologized for launching so directly into such a request.

I answered that it was a pleasure to work with someone who had already done so much to marshal the resources for a successful project, and who knew what he wanted to do. The Friends went to work, and we raised the money in record time.

Well, Dr. Williams has reappeared. Not in the flesh, because he died far too early, after retiring in 2001. If it is a tragedy that he died so young, it is a blessing that his influence continues to be felt by all of those who knew him. We remember him for the depth of his knowledge of horticulture and the extent of his desire to share that knowledge. We honor him as teacher of students and leader of all those who supported the Gardens as a community resource. We admire him as that rare person who could make everyone feel that they were all joined in a worthwhile, collective enterprise together.

On January 23, the Board of the Friends of the UT Gardens voted to complete the funding of the Don Williams Endowed Professorship for Horticulture and Directorship for the Gardens. A previous campaign for funding this professorship has reached a little over half of the full amount. In acknowledgement of our substantial investment in this effort, this prestigious position will now carry the additional requirement that the successful candidate lead the UT Gardens and the Friends in developing a compelling vision for its future in relation to our university, and in our local, regional and state communities, and on a national level of distinction. (More details inside.)

Dr. Williams will be here with us forever in what we have learned and in what we will build for the future.

Donald B. Williams

Endowed Professorship & Directorship

As many of you who have served community non-profits like the Friends of the UT Gardens probably realize already, our organization is at a point where it needs to decide how it wants to grow up. For 12 years, we've been both an independent and a grassroots organization that has tried to do almost everything—including a time or two (too many!) standing on our heads—to assist the University of Tennessee Gardens. We've raised increasingly large amounts of funds and done it almost entirely by a means—events fundraising—that is well known to exhaust members and volunteers, if it is the only or predominant means to raise operational funds. But without an institutional vision for the future of the Gardens, it has not been possible to change to longer range funds development.

At the same time as our assistance to the UT Gardens has become more substantial and critical to cover budget shortfalls, it has appeared that the number of UT faculty involved in the Gardens has decreased. That is not entirely the case, as new junior faculty have been added, but certainly the retirement of several of the founding full professors of the Gardens and the Friends has been felt. The tragic loss of Dr. Don Williams far too early in his retirement has left some big shoes to fill. Meanwhile, Dr. Susan Hamilton has soldiered on and done yeoman duty to bridge the gaps while simultaneously teaching and advising a very large number of students.

During 2005, a president's subcommittee of Friends board members examined our mission and core values and reviewed how to focus our

efforts in the most positive direction. We then engaged in a dialog with Dr. Hamilton and other UT faculty and administrators to devise the best strategy for moving on to the next best step for the Gardens and for the Friends. In December, we met in Executive Committee to adopt a proposal to present to the board.

Our board met in January and approved the following motion: "That the Friends of the UT Gardens focus on obtaining leadership for the Gardens and that we leverage the Donald B. Williams Endowed Professorship and Directorship for that purpose." This position is one of the most esteemed honors in higher education and will only be filled with a distinguished teacher and scholar in horticulture. With the added role of Directorship, the University will search for a candidate with additional experience and proven leadership abilities in public gardens, and in fundraising and forging partnerships with other community leaders and the green industry state-wide.

This is an exciting and monumental step, but the board is confident that our membership is up to the challenge. For 12 years we've grown little-by-little, step-by-step and we realize that we must now make a bit of a leap or our work will be less productive and rewarding over a longer term. With this bold measure, we are investing in the kind of experienced leadership that can take us on to the next phase of development of the Gardens and the Friends and on into the future. Don't miss this ride!

Theresa Pepin

Conifer Corner

Andy Pulte

Conifer Conversation Piece: Cockscomb Cedar

The Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) has been a popular landscape tree for many years. Its billowy pyramidal form and graceful branching habit make it a true specimen tree. The cultivar 'Cristata' is a true conifer conversation piece, and its commercial availability is increasing.

True Japanese cedar species have spirally arranged, awl-shaped needles; however, *Cristata* has a unique look that is all its own. Scattered throughout the plant are branches with congested groups of cockscomb-like needles. Together these branches look like moose antlers swaying in the wind.

Cristata is a plant you can't resist touching. The appearance of the soft, flat needles beg all passers by to reach out and feel this strange tree. *Cristata* is smaller than the standard *Cryptomeria* cultivar, growing to a height of 10 feet in 10 years and reaching approximately 25 feet at maturity.

As an added benefit, *Cristata's* fairly columnar form allows the tree to fit well into a smaller landscape. This tree will do best planted in full sun to partial shade with good well-drained soil.



The UT Gardens in Knoxville includes *Cristata* and many other interesting conifers in its collection. The UT Gardens are pleased to be among the destinations of the American Conifer Society's national meeting June 14-17 in Knoxville. For more information on adding conifers to your garden or on the American Conifer Society, visit the Web site: www.conifersociety.org.

Andrew Pulte is a graduate student in the University of Tennessee Department of Plant Sciences. He works under the guidance of Dr. Susan Hamilton, director of the UT Gardens.

From the UT Gardens Director Dr. Sue Hamilton

Winter has not been an idle time in the UT Gardens. We continue to modify and improve different areas of the Gardens before spring arrives. Be sure to check out the changes we've made around the water garden and the lower woody plant garden closest to Neyland Drive. We've modified these areas to give us more open, lawn areas as well as more space for our new conifer collection.



Curator James Newburn and student intern Ben Blackwood modifying the water garden for spring plantings.

Thanks to the East Tennessee Daffodil Society, the UT Gardens is getting a daffodil collection that will represent all 13 daffodil divisions. Society members planted seven of the 13 divisions in the Gardens this past January and will



East Tennessee Daffodil Society planting a new daffodil collection in the UT Gardens.

add the other divisions over time. The divisions will be planted in different locations throughout the Gardens. All bulbs are labeled with botanical name and division. A public horticulture student from UT will work with society member Lois Van Wie on developing an educational brochure about daffodils and the collection for the UT Gardens. The society will host its annual spring show in Ellington Plant Sciences Building's Hollingsworth Auditorium March 25-26, 1-5 p.m. both days. More than 500 different daffodil varieties will be on display showing the variety of bloom sizes and colors. Admission is free.



East Tennessee Daffodil Society with Gardens staff. From left to right: curator James Newburn, Friends member Lois Van Wie, director Sue Hamilton and Friends member Nancy Robinson.

Are you a geocacher? Do you know what geocaching is? I'm not, and I admit that I didn't know about geocaching until Friends member Jan Walker approached me about making the UT Gardens a geocaching site. By definition, geocaching is the combination of hiking and treasure hunting using a Global Positioning Satellite device. It all starts when one party hides a small canister in a certain area, records its latitude and longitude coordinates and then documents it on geocaching.com. Information on cache sites can be found on the GeoCaching.com Web site. Type in a ZIP code or town and receive a list of local cache sites. All sites have coordinates; some have hints and descriptions that make finding the cache easy. According to the site, there are more than 226,000 cache sites worldwide in more than 200 countries. You'll find the UT Gardens listed as "Buds and Blooms" or by its waypoint code, which is GCT01E. There are 10 stages to the Gardens' cache, including the final in which the container is hidden. No sites are obvious to the naked eye but only to the trained cache seeker. Each stage will direct you to the next.

Jan has hidden some very nice prizes in the box for the first five finders to entice their caching mojo. Registration with Geocaching.com is free and provides enough basic information to participate—coordinates, basic maps, the ability to log your finds online. We've already had some geocacher visitors since Jan implemented the Gardens' cache in January, and feedback has been great. Thanks to Jan for attracting a whole new audience to our Gardens!



Curator James Newburn, Friends member Jan Walker and director Sue Hamilton

We are gaining momentum in preparation for the American Conifer Society's annual conference to be held in Knoxville in June. Friends members Faye Beck and Andy Pulte traveled with me in mid-January to the Cox Arboretum and Gardens in Canton, Ga. We had the opportunity to not only meet with ACS members and discuss plans for the conference, but we also saw an amazing conifer collection. The 13-acre arboretum is a private estate 40 miles north of Atlanta and has over 2,000 living specimens with emphasis on maples, conifers and broad-leaf evergreens from Asia. I highly recommend visiting this beautiful garden. To learn more, check out the Web site at <http://www.coxgardens.com/>.

Back row is Tom Cox, owner of Cox Arboretum and president-elect of ACS. Front row left to right: Friends member Andy Pulte, ACS officer Flo Chaffin, Dr. Sue Hamilton and Friends member Faye Beck.



Q&A

Q: My primulas have been blooming their little heads off for a couple of weeks now, despite the fact that I should have divided them ages ago. Can anyone advise the best time to divide them?

A: There are two differing pieces of advice on this one. Some suggest that it would be best to divide primulas in early fall, around late September and early October, while others suggest dividing after blooming. Keep them watered well until temperatures get cold. Still others say the primulas perhaps are proving Brent Heath's point that, like daffodils, they don't need to be divided as much as they are given good nutrients.

Q: Is it my imagination or are the holly berries particularly numerous and striking this year? Does anyone know why that might be?

A: It does seem that the hollies are loaded extra heavy this year, probably from a good spring and early summer when the rainfall allows for lots of flowers to be produced, and such a warm winter so far. Also, birds prefer holly berries that have gone through a few cold spells, and we've not had much in the way of cold yet. Fruiting shrubs will frequently have a heavy set after fruiting light the year before. It might be more the result of an ideal spring and water and good bee pollination. The hollies probably won't be as impressive next year.

From the UT Gardens Curator James Newburn

One of the things I enjoy most about my job is the opportunity to work with great students. Being a public garden associated with an educational institution affords us the responsibility and opportunity to train and educate future botanic garden managers, horticulturists and educators in a "hands-on" environment. It is a two-way street, though, and to our advantage. These students often bring a new prospective and enthusiasm to the UT Gardens that helps keep our training skills honed, our gardening ideas refreshed and the workplace enjoyable. In other words, they keep us on our toes.

This opportunity means that we see a significant turnover as students "leave the nest," and others come in. Last month we said goodbye to two wonderful graduates, but now we welcome two new students to our team. Joining us this spring are Katie McCarver and Jennifer Resig. Both are in our public horticulture concentration, and both bring experience from garden centers and nurseries.



Katie McCarver

Katie is a junior in our program from Memphis. Some of her interests are in community gardening and horticulture education in urban settings. She hopes to join the Peace Corps one day. She would like to help people become connected with plants "but only as long as I can still get my hands dirty." Besides general horticulture chores, Katie expects to be getting those hands dirty in the herb and vegetable gardens and perhaps working with some of the school groups that use the UT Garden.



Jennifer Resig

Jennifer, from Knoxville, already has a degree in geology. She developed an early interest in horticulture working in her family's large vegetable garden and doing all the yard work while growing up. She has now decided to seek a second degree in public horticulture after realizing that she would like to make what became a passionate hobby into her vocation. Her interest is in botanic garden education and enhancing visitors' experiences

through meaningful garden communication. Jennifer will take a lead role in our greenhouse annual flower production, managing the perennial border and developing the signage for the new conifer collection.

Speaking of conifers, we are really moving forward on the renovation of the woody garden area to make room for about 75 species of conifers. We have completed the removal of about 20 trees and shrubs to make our final garden room in the lower tree and shrub garden. The stumps have been ground out, clearing out space for our new specimens and creating an area that will provide visual continuity throughout that whole garden. The recent addition of large boulders and rock throughout the area is going to create a stunning backdrop for the dwarf and intermediate varieties of the collection. Larger specimens will be planted around the perimeter of the garden, where they will have plenty of room to reach their full potential.

Work also continues on the renovation of the water garden by the upper gazebo. Some of the in-ground tubs and fencing have been removed. This will open up space for a wider variety of plant material that will enhance the pond features. We plan to add several tropical plants in this area that will tie in with the big, bold lotus that are always a visitor favorite creating a lush oasis effect. It is exciting to see the changes taking place that are bringing our plans and your suggestions to fruition.

New & Renewing Members

BUSINESS FRIENDS

Custom Marble And Design
Exterior Design Service
Meadow View Greenhouse & Garden
Stanley's Greenhouses
Volunteer Lawn, Inc.

CONTRIBUTING FRIENDS

Claudine & Helmut Boehme
John & Sandra Butler
Nancy Hugh
Dale & Loretta Jacobsen
Ken McFarland
Judy Moore
Guy Papenhausen
Karen J. Petrey
Pamela Reddoch
Mrs. Herbert Slatery, Jr.

FAMILY FRIENDS

Sally & Ken Abbas
Jean Bonnyman
Karen & Charles Dhyanchand
D.j. & Phyllis Etzler
Mary Belle & Alex Harkness
Linda And Dennis Hopkins
Anne Killefer
Robert & Frances McClung
Tom & Ellen Morgan
George & Margie Pickens
Janice & Rick Rawe
Priscilla & Tom Siler
Dennis & Janet Superczynski
Richard & Peggy Tippens
Bob & Kay Trigiano
Elizabeth & James Wall

INDIVIDUAL FRIENDS

Deborah Allen
Kathleen Ambrose
Tracey Anderson
Mazel Andrews
Leslie Badaines
Cheryl Baddorf

Eleana Bellomy
Kristin Bianconi
Mary Jean Bryant
Martha Burnette
Lynn Carlson
Karen Chesney
Sherry Chobanian
Carol Coode
Cathy Creswell
Ellie Gardner
Ann H. Hansen
Kathleen G. Harrison
Craig Harsh
Marci Hayes
Barbara Hillard
Nagwa Hultquist
Laurel J. Humphreys
Bennie M. Jean
Glenna W. Julian
Ruby Lee
Theresa Leese
Mineko S. Lewis
Dale Liles
Frances M. Lothrop
Jessica McGee
Dana McLaughlin
Joanne R. Mounger
James Newburn
Shelley Newman
Bonnie D. Ogden
Ruth Pardue
Darby Parker
Joanna Partain
Diane Pearson
Ann Peck
Lisa Phipps
Kimberly Quesenberry
Jennie Ritchie
Nancy Robinson
Mary Elizabeth Saga
Barbara Sanders
Rita Sass
Lucy Scanlon
Louise Sexton
Donna Stinnett

Joice Tallent
Lois Van Wie
Mary Sue Walker
Julie Webb
Carole H. Willard
Anne L. Wright

SPONSORING FRIENDS

Ken Shepard & Mary Collins-Shepard
Sandra Leach
Barbara Levin
Mary Spengler

STUDENT FRIEND

Jean Lantrip

SUSTAINING FRIENDS

Mary & Chris Albrecht
Faye Beck
Neal & Alice Caldwell
Melinda Ethier
Mitchell Adams & Laura McFee Adams
Mrs. Don B. Preston
Suzanne W. Stowers

ADOPT-A-BED

BRONZE

Mineko Lewis



The Friends of the University of Tennessee Gardens is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote and raise funds for the UT Gardens. The UT Gardens are free and open to the public every day of the year. Features of the Gardens include more than 800 species of woody plants under long-term observation and 2,000 varieties of herbaceous plants evaluated annually.

Briefly Noted

Sad News

Sustaining Friend **Richard Sloan** informs us that his wife, avid gardener **Peggy Sloan**, was killed in an auto wreck on Aug. 23, 2005.

Artist and Sustaining Friend **Betsy Worden** died Jan. 19, after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage while on vacation in French Polynesia. Betsy had just finished a beautiful set of 10 drawings for the Friends for the Secret Garden Parties 2006 catalog before leaving on vacation.

We extend sympathy to both Richard Sloan and Stuart Worden and their families on their loss.

In Appreciation

Special thanks to Friends Board Member **Sandi Burdick** for undertaking this project of matching the **Best Plants** with the **Best Business Friends** in East Tennessee. Your patronage is very much appreciated. Please mention you saw plant availability listed in the UT Report and the Friends of the Gardens newsletter.

Katrina Donation

The Board made a donation to the **New Orleans City Park and Gardens** and received a note of thanks and a report on efforts to recover from the devastation of Katrina from Director John Hopper. Floodwaters covered 90 percent of the park, more than 1,000 trees were toppled, and virtually all equipment, material and supplies were lost. Worse, most employees have been furloughed since the Park and Gardens have lost all sources of revenue.

Special Note

The Friends of the University of Tennessee Gardens is an institutional member of the **American Public Gardens Association**, or APGA, formerly the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta.

Business Friend Expands

Ellenburg Landscaping, a Business Friend of UT Gardens, is opening a second location at 722 Vanosdale Road in West Knoxville in March or April. Be sure to visit the new store this spring.



Friend's Art Exhibit

Friends member and painter **Jean Hess** was recently profiled in a Knoxville News Sentinel "Sunday Spotlight" Jan. 8. In answer to the question "What is your 'comfort place'?" she declared it to be The UT Trial Gardens. What an excellent statement in line with our mission to promote the UT Gardens! Jean opened an exhibit at the Gardner Gallery in Atlanta Feb. 4 that will run all month. Its proceeds benefit Gardeners for Peace, an international organization of gardens to promote peace.

Calendar Reminders

REMINDER: Secret Gardens 06

Where: Poplar Hill

When: Sunday, March 5, 3:30–6 p.m.

Cost: \$40 per person

The first Secret Gardens 06 visit of the year will be at Poplar Hill, the residence of artist John Kelley in the Lyons Bend area of West Knoxville. The afternoon will include a selection of wine and fine cheeses, as well as a stroll into "Esther's Garden," offering a panoramic view of the river from the bluff. Lenten roses could be in bloom, and the first bulbs of the spring might be above ground. Lisa Matta, an accomplished grower and caretaker of orchids, will provide a selection of exceptional orchids and share her extensive knowledge of these exquisite beauties. Also featured will be botanical paintings of magnolia blossoms (oil on canvas, 32"x24") by John Kelley. A portion of the proceeds from sales of both orchids and paintings will also be donated to the Friends of the UT Gardens.

Hosts: John Woodrow Kelley *
Betsy and Bruce Foster
Jeanie and Cliff Johnson
Sherry Flecken Chobanian

Check www.friendsoftheutgardens.org for full information about Secret Gardens 06.

Special thanks to Home Federal Bank and Lane Hays for sponsoring Secret Gardens 06.

REMINDER: Emily Herring Wilson Lecture

Where: Tennessee Valley Unitarian

Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike

When: Tuesday, March 7, 7 p.m.

Sponsored by Friends of the UT Gardens, Friends of the Library, Hodges Fund of the UT Department of English

Emily Herring Wilson will speak at a book and author event on the life of Elizabeth Lawrence,

a well known gardener and garden writer, and Katharine White, wife of E.B. White and writer for The New Yorker. Wilson, a poet and author, lives in Winston-Salem, N.C., and has taught at Wake Forest University, Salem College, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Cornell University. She is the author of *No One Gardens Alone: A Life of Elizabeth Lawrence*. She also is the editor of *Two Gardeners: A Friendship in Letters*, which recounts the correspondence between Elizabeth Lawrence and Katharine White. The talk is open to the public at no cost.

REMINDER: UT Non-Credit Courses

The following courses are offered in partnership with the University of Tennessee Winter 2006 Non-Credit Courses Catalog. To obtain a print catalog or make reservations, call 865-974-0150 or visit www.outreach.utk.edu/ppd. **All proceeds from course offerings and trips benefit the UT Gardens.**

TRIP: Nashville Lawn & Garden Show Saturday, March 4, 2006

Sponsored by Friends of the UT Gardens, join us for a day trip to the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show. The theme for the garden show is "Jazz It Up—Can You Dig It?" This is the largest gardening event in Tennessee. "No garden is ever complete, there is always room for improvement and ways to "Jazz it up," says Randall Lantz, co-manager of the show. "The show will spotlight the variety of ways to introduce some jazz into gardening, whether it is by plant selection, construction elements, lighting or new horticultural products." The show is held indoors with over an acre of live gardens. There are also 250 exhibit booths, a floral design gallery, and free lectures on a variety of horticulture and gardening topics. **Registrations must be received by Friday, Feb. 24. Course #262577 Fee \$89 (includes roundtrip transportation, entrance fee, snacks, and a box dinner for the return trip).** Saturday, March 4, 8 a.m.–6:30 p.m. (approximate return) Leave from UT Ag Campus parking lot adjacent to the entrance to the UT Gardens.

(Courses continued next page)

Seed Starting

Learn how to start your own plants from seeds in this hands-on workshop. The UT Greenhouse and Gardens Staff will show us methods of planting seeds and how to grow your own annuals. Some seeds will be furnished. If you have particular plants you want to grow, please

bring those seeds with you. All materials will be furnished. *Approved for certificate elective.*

Course #262602 Fee: \$39

Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m. – Noon
Greenhouse 11, UT Campus

60th Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium

Creating spaces that unify the home and garden has been the goal of architects and garden designers for centuries. The loggias of the Palladian villas provided intermediate spaces offering shade and fresh air for outdoor living “en plain air.” Americans continue to push their living spaces into the outdoors for both relaxation and entertainment. The exploration of that process and how it affects the developing American garden will be discussed at the 60th annual Williamsburg Garden Symposium, “Celebrating the American Garden: Spaces for Relaxing and Entertaining,” April 30 - May 3.

Among the speakers:

Pamela J. Harper, who reads, writes and lectures about plants, as well as photographs them and works them in her two sandy acres in Tidewater Virginia. She has twice won awards from the Garden Writers Association of America and is a recipient of the Horticultural Writing Award of the American Horticultural Society.

Julie Moir Messervy, a regular contributor to Fine Gardening magazine with her column, “Inspired Design,” is an acclaimed landscape designer, author and lecturer with an inspired

vision for creating outdoor sanctuaries that feed the spirit. Her innovative approach to composing gardens of beauty and meaning is furthering the evolution of landscape design and changing the way people think about their outdoor surroundings.

Laura P. Reilly, the floricultural manager for The Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Va., is responsible for creating and maintaining the beautiful color displays throughout the resort property. The Homestead recently received the prestigious Professional Grounds Maintenance Society Grand Award for both interior and exterior plantings.

Brent Heath, who spoke to Friends of the UT Gardens in January, is a third-generation bulb grower and co-owner with his wife, Becky, of Brent and Becky’s Bulbs. The business is a wholesale/retail mail-order flower bulb catalogue and web site business in Gloucester, Va., that provides bulbs to many botanical gardens, cities, universities, garden centers and discriminating gardeners across the country.

For additional information or to register, use the Colonial Williamsburg Web site, colonialwilliamsburg.com.

The University of Tennessee Gardens 2005 Best Plants Report

Prepared by:

Dr. Susan Hamilton, Director of the UT Gardens
Jason Reeves, Curator of the Jackson UT Gardens
Beth Willis, Herb Garden Curator
Holly Jones, Perennial Garden Curator in Knoxville

Business Friends of Friends of the UT Gardens will be selling the following plants as indicated in bold parentheses by code. Please call the nursery before making a special trip to see if they have the desired plant in stock as quantities are frequently limited and sell out quickly.

- (EL)** Ellenburg Landscaping, 5805 Walden Drive, Knoxville, 588-5677
- (EL)** Ellenburg Landscaping, 722 Vanosdale Road, Knoxville
- (EM)** Erin’s Meadow Herb Farm, 132 England Drive, Clinton, 435-1452
- (FM)** The Flower Market, 4520 Old Kingston Pike, Knoxville, 584-1679
- (HR)** Honey Rock Herb Farm, Louisville, 984-0954
- (MV)** Meadow View Greenhouses, 9885 Hwy 11E, Lenoir City, 986-7229
- (MC)** Mouse Creek Nursery, 276 County Road 67, Riceville, 423-462-2666
- (OD)** Oakes Daylilies, Corryton, 687-3770
- (P)** Pope’s Garden Center, 3308 Old Knoxville Hwy, Maryville, 982-9217
- (P)** Pope’s Garden Center 204 S. Northshore Drive, Knoxville 558-9591
- (RG)** Ridge Greenhouse & Florist, 148 Louisiana Avenue, Oak Ridge, 482-1465
- (S)** Stanley’s Greenhouses, 3029 Davenport Road, Knoxville, 573-9591
- (WR)** Willow Ridge Garden Center, 97 Oak Ridge Trnpke, Oak Ridge, 481-3825

Following is a list of the top performing plants from the UT Gardens 2005 summer.

2005 UT Garden Winners

Best in Show – AAS Winner Ornamental Pepper ‘**Black Pearl**’ (**MC, P, RG, S**) (☼, 18” T, 12-16” W, H). Striking purple-black foliage with lavender blooms leading to round black-purple peppers turning bright red in late summer. A real showstopper in our gardens.

Best New 2005 Variety - New Guinea Impatiens ‘**Fanfare Bright Coral**’ (**MC, MV, P**) (●-●, H) from Ball FloraPlant. Impressive uniformity and extremely large, bright salmon flowers. A real showstopper.

Best Old Variety – Torenia (**P**) ‘**Catalina Blue**’ (**EL, MC, S, WR**) ‘**Catalina Purple**’ (**WR**) and ‘**Catalina Pink**’ (**EL, S, WR**) (☼-●, 10-12” T, 8-10” W, H) from Proven Winners were impressive for their bright colors and cascading growth habit. The Snapdragon-like flowers were produced in abundance all season long.

Top 5 Performers:

Pentas ‘Kaleidoscope’ series (FM, MC, P, RG) (☼, 🌿, H) from Benary with four great colors (Appleblossom, Carmine, Lilac, and Deep Red). All produced large flowers, are self-cleaning, and were weather durable.

Angelonia ‘Serena’ (FM) (☼, 10-12” T, 14-16” W, D, H) and **‘Angelmist’ series (EL, S, WR)** (☼, 1-2’ T, 1-1.5’ W, D, H) from Pan American and Ball FloraPlant were short and compact. Impressive flower-power all season long. Great in containers but really impressive in mass plantings in the landscape.

Vinca (P) ‘Nirvana’ (FM) (☼, 10-12” T, 12-14” W, H) and **‘Nirvana Cascade’ series (EL, S)** (☼, 10” T, 18-24” W, D, H) from Fischer, USA. Great colors and growth habits make these vincas outstanding. **‘Nirvana Cascade’** has a semi-trailing growth habit and large blooms great for mass bed displays, containers or hanging baskets. The **‘Nirvana’ series** is more upright.

Petunia (P) ‘Jamboree Burgundy’ series (FM) (☼, 8-10” T, 2’ W, 🌿, 🎵) from Fischer, USA; **‘Supertunia Vista Bubblegum’ (MC, MV)** (☼-●, 16-20” T, 18-24” W) from Proven Winners, and **‘Surfinia Rose Veined’** (☼, 6-10” T, 8-12” W) from Jackson and Perkins all were outstanding for their colors, flower production, and vigorous but compact growth habit. All were standout selections.

Lantana ‘Lucky Yellow Improved’ (FM, MC, S) (☼, 12” T&W) from Ball FloraPlant has loads of bright, clear yellow flowers which were incredibly eye-catching in the landscape.

Other ‘Best’ Notables

Ageratum – Both the **‘High Tide’ series (MC)** (☼, 24” T, 12” W) from Pan American and the **‘Cloud Nine’ series (EL)** (☼, 12” T, 12-16” W) from Ball FloraPlant were impressive. **‘Cloud Nine’** had large blooms, was uniform, and mounded in habit. **‘High Tide’** was self-cleaning, tall, and dense.

Begonias (FM) - Waxleaf Begonia **‘Lotto Apple Blossom’ (MC, RG)** (☼-●, 12” T, 6-8” W) from Benary and **‘Braveheart Rose Bicolor’ (S)** (☼-●, 16-24” T, H) from Syngenta were covered with loads of flowers all season with no disease problems. Great colors for this durable landscape plant. **‘Braveheart Rose Bicolor’** saturates the garden with beautiful rose and white blooms in sun or shade. Fills containers and beds quickly, sets flowers early and keeps flowering all summer long.

Calibrachoa (FM, P) - The **‘Callie’ series (MV, RG, S)** (☼-● 6-8” T, 20” W) from Fischer, USA is mounding and uniform and great in containers. **‘Superbell’ series (EL, MV, S, WR)** (☼-●, 6-10” T, 8-10” W) from Proven Winners is disease resistant and a bit up-right in habit. **‘Million Bells’ series (EL, MC, S, WR)** (☼, 5-8” T, 8-10” W) from Jackson & Perkins had great colors, habit and performance as did the **‘Cabaret’ series** (☼, 10-12” T, 14-16” W) from Ball FloraPlant. **‘Cabaret’ (EL, MC)** had great mounded and trailing habit and vibrant colors.

Celosia ‘Fresh Look Orange’ (EL, FM, MC, P, RG, S) (☼, 12-18” T, 12-20” W) has outstanding large plumes, season-long, profuse blooming, and intense color. Self-cleaning and uniform habit.

Coleus (FM, P) - Favorite sun coleus among our visitors for their striking and colorful foliage included the seed varieties **‘Wizard Mosaic’ (EL, RG)** (●-●, 10-12” T, 1-1.5’ W) and **‘Kong Mosaic’ (EL, MC, MV, RG, S, WR)** (●-●, 18” T, 12” W) which were dramatic in the landscape due to their mammoth size foliage and great performance. Vegetative types included **‘Glennis’ (RG, S)** (☼-●, 2’ T, 30” W) and **‘Pink Chaos’ (EL, MV, S)** (☼-●, 6-12” T, 8-12” W) from Proven Winners. Both were praiseworthy among visitors. **‘Aurora Black Cherry’ (MC)** (☼-●, 24” T) from Ball FloraPlant was popular as well for its fine foliage and pink color. Other choice

selections included **‘Crimson Velvet’** (☼-●, 24” T), **‘Dabbled Apple’ (EL)** (☼-●, 16-18” T, 12” W), **‘Copper Glow’** (☼-●), **‘Sedona’ (MC, S, WR)** (●-●, 12-18” T, 12” W), **‘Marissa’** (☼-●, 15-18” T, 10-12” W), **‘Purple Dragon’ (EL, WR)** (●-●, 18” T), and **‘Raspberry Ruffles’ (EL)** (☼-●, 24” T).

Euphorbia ‘Diamond Frost’ (FM, MC, MV, RG, S) (☼-●, 8-12” T, 10-12” W, D, H) – loads of soft, airy flowers cover this plant all season adding a soft texture to the landscape. Great for containers or in mass plantings.

Gallardia (FM, P) ‘Torch Red Ember’ (☼, 15” T, 19” W, H) from Ball FloraPlant was impressive for its non-stop blooming and self-cleaning habit. Formed a showy mass in the landscape quickly. The bicolored flowers are great. **‘Arizona Sun’ (MC, S)** (☼, 8-10” T, 10-12” W, 🌿, ✨) is an AAS Winner. Large, 3-4” blooms were loaded on plants all season long. Compact habit growing to 10”. Bright, showy red and gold color. Self-cleaning!

Geranium Vegetative types: (P) ‘Rocky Mountain’ series (MV, RG, S, WR) (☼-●, 24”+ T, 24-30” W) from Fischer; **‘Americana’ series (MC, MV)** (☼, H) from Fischer, USA; **‘White Mountain’** (☼, white w/green), **‘Samaritan’** (☼, dark salmon), **‘Patriot’ (EL)** (☼, deep rose red), **‘Red Coat’** (☼, deep red), **‘Puritan’** (☼, bright white), **‘Quaker’** (☼, clear white), **‘Faith’** (☼, light lavender), **‘Olivia’ (EL)** (☼, light salmon), **‘Abigail’** (☼, medium salmon), **‘Beth’** (☼, light pink), **‘Amy’** (☼, pale pink) and **‘Anne’** (☼, light lavender) from Bartlett were all strong bloomers on uniform plants. Little botrytis disease. **Ivy Types:** From J.P. Bartlett Co., **‘Dark Pink’ (EL)** (☼) and **‘Light Purple’ (EL)** (☼) were impressive for abundant flowering; **‘Tutti Frutti’ (EL)** (☼-●, D), **‘Purple Blizzard’** (☼-●, 6-12” T, 24-36” W), **‘Ruby Dream’** (☼-●, D), **‘Holiday Red Blizzard’** (☼-●, D), **‘Caliente Coral’** (☼-●) and **‘Monlira 2005’** (☼-●, D) from Fischer, USA were impressive for habit and flowering.

Gaura (FM, P) ‘Pink Picotee’ (MC, S) (☼, 1-1.5’ T, 1-2’ W, H) and **‘Karalee White’ (S)** (☼-●, 8-12” T&W, H) from Proven Winners was heat tolerant and produced abundant flowers all season long. Great in containers or in the landscape.

Helenium ‘Dakota Gold’ (FM, MC) (☼, 12-14” T, 15-16” W) from Pan American Seed flowered all season long. It is short and compact and has a fine texture. Great for containers or mass plantings in the landscape.

Heuchera (P) ‘Dolce Mocha Mint’ (FM, MC, S) and **‘Dolce Licorice’ (MC)** (☼-●, 8-12” T, 10-14” W) from Proven Winners offer great color and habit. Great foliage accent plants.

Hibiscus ‘Luna Pink Swirl’ (FM, MC, P, RG) (☼, 24-36” T, H) from Ball Seed Company had short, stocky growth with large, showy blooms late into the season.

Impatiens (P) - The **‘Advantage’ series (FM)** (●-●, 8” T, H) from Bodger was impressive with large blooms and uniform habit; **‘Stardust Cherry’ (MC)** (●, 10-12” T, 14-16” W) from Pan American Seed is striking for its unique flower color pattern; the **‘Butterfly’ series** (●-●, 10” T) from Fischer, USA is striking for its flower shape and abundant blooming; and **‘Fiesta Stardust Salmon’ (EL, S)** (●-●) and **‘Fiesta Ole Peach’ (S)** (●-●) were unique for flower color pattern, size of bloom, and habit.

Impatiens, New Guinea Type (P) – The new **‘Compact Sonic’ series (EL, S, WR)** (●-●) from Fischer, USA is impressive for compactness yet large, showy blooms. **‘Cherry’ (EL, WR)** and **‘Deep Salmon’ (WR)** were favorites. The **‘Sonic’ (S, WR)** (●-●, 6-12” T, 6-9” W) and **‘Super Sonic’ series (S)** (●-●) from Fischer always put on a great show. You are guaranteed success with selections from either of these series. Favorites from the **‘Sonic’ series** include: **‘Magic Pink’ (RG, S)**, **‘Hot Rose on Gold’**, **‘Orange’ (S)**, and **‘Sweet Cherry’ (EL, RG, S)**. Favorites from the **‘Super Sonic’ series** include: **‘Violet Ice’**, **‘Coral Ice 03’ (S)**, **‘Cherry Cream’ (S)**, **‘Pastel Pink’ (RG, S)**, and **‘Burgundy’ (EL, RG)**.

Lantana ‘Tropical Fruit’ (EL, FM, MC, MV, P, S) (☼-●, 18-24” T, 16-22” W, D, H) from Proven Winners covers itself in soft lavender and yellow blooms from mid-season on. Makes a great show in the landscape or in containers.

Lavender ‘Lavance’ (MC) (☼, 9-10” T, 12” W) from Ball is compact with lots of flowers late into the season.

Lobelia (P) – **‘Laguna Sky Blue’ (EL, MC, S, WR)** (☼-●, 8-10” T, 6-8” W, H) from Proven Winners, **‘Techno Blue’** (☼, H) from Fischer USA, and **‘Waterfall White Sparkle’** (☼, 5” T, 6” W, H) all had great heat tolerance and they all flowered prolifically. The blue colors are terrific. All are great in containers as well as for a border or foreground in a landscape bed.

Lophospermum ‘Great Cascade Wine Red’ (RG) (☼-●, 6’ T, H) Has soft mauve blooms and a trailing habit great for containers. From Jackson & Perkins.

Marigold - ‘Golden Gate’ (☼, 10” T, 12” W) and **‘Bonanza Flame’ (EL, MC, S, WR)** (☼, 10-12” T) from Pan American Seed lasted late into the season with little disease. **‘Hero Bee’ (EL)** (☼) from Bodger was also impressive for prolific blooming and disease resistance.

Mecardonia ‘Gold Flake’ (MC, P, S) (☼-●, 12-16” W, H) from Proven Winners covered itself in yellow blooms all season. Durable and mat forming. Great groundcover in the landscape or cascading plant in a container.

Ornamental Millet - ‘Jester’ (FM, MC, P, RG, S) (☼, 3’ T, 10-12” W) from Pan American Seed was notable for its dramatic, mottled colors. **‘Purple Baron’ (EL, MC)** (☼, 3’ T, 10-12” W) was notable for its compact habit, shorter than others, and dark color.

Pentas (P) – **‘Butterfly Light Lavender’ (FM)** (☼-●, 14-18” T, 20-24” W, D, 🎵, 🌿) and **‘Butterfly Pink’ (EL, S)** (☼-●, 14-18” T, 16-20” W, D, 🎵, 🌿) were great performers for prolific flowering, weather durability, and habit.

Perilla ‘Magilla Vanilla’ (FM, MC, RG, S) (☼-●, 24” T, 18-24” W, H) from Ball FloraPlant was a real showstopper for its colorful creamy white foliage with variegations. Great foliage accent plant.

Petunia (P) - From seed, **‘Wave Pink’ (EL, FM, MV, RG, S)** (☼, 4-6” T, 4” W), and **‘Easy Wave Shell Pink Imp’ (EL)** (☼, 8-10” T, 2.5-3’ W) were two of our favorites for habit and prolific blooming. From Bodger, the **‘Avalanche’ series (EL, FM)**, (☼, 2-2.5’ W, H) did great and has a great habit. The **‘Hurrah’ series (MV, S)** (☼, 17” T,

22” W) from Syngenta had great colors and a durable, showy habit too. Vegetatively reproduced and groundcover types: The **‘Surfinia’ series (EL, S)** (☼, 12-16” T, 24-28” W, H) from Jackson & Perkins; **‘Jamboree’ (S)** (☼, 8-10” T, 2’ W) and **‘Whispers’ series (S)** (☼), from Fischer; and **‘Supertunia’ series (EL, S, WR)** (☼-●, 5-7” T, 8-12” W), from Proven Winners were all impressive. The **‘Double Wave Blue Velvet’ (EL, FM)**, (☼, 4-6” T) from Ball FloraPlant stood out as well and was impressive, vigorous, and carefree in the gardens.

Phlox (FM, P) – The **‘Intensia’ series (MC, RG, S)** (☼-●, 10-12” T&W, H) from Proven Winners was incredibly show and heat tolerant! **‘Cabernet’**, **‘Lavender Glow’**, **‘Lilac Rose’**, and **‘Neon Pink’ (EL)** were all outstanding and quite eye-catching in the gardens.

Plectranthus (P) ‘Blue Yonder’ (FM, MC, S) (☼-●, 14-18” T, 14-24” W) from Proven Winners is impressive for its fine foliage texture and variegated foliage. It covers itself in light blue flower spikes in late summer making a real show in the garden. **‘Mona Lavender’ (MC, S)** (☼-●, 14-18” T) from Proven Winners is also showy for its green foliage with purple undersides and blue flowers in mid-late summer.

Portulaca ‘Tequila’ series (EL, FM), (☼, 6-8” T, 1-1.5’ W, D, H), from Pan American Seed had showy colors and flowers stayed open late into the day.

Purslane ‘Rio’ series (EL, FM, MC, MV) (☼, 5” T, 2’ W) from Ball FloraPlant had vibrant colors, vigorous growth, and was durable in the landscape.

Salvia farinacea ‘Evolution’ (FM, P, S) (☼, 16-24” T, 16-19” W, D) is an AAS Winner and is more compact than other varieties of this species. Its well-branched habit yields an increased number of flower spikes as well. Great for containers or mass planting in the landscape. **‘Mystic Blue Spires’** (☼, 1.5-2’ T, 1-1.5’ W) from Ball FloraPlant is a taller and wisper culivar with standout qualities. Long flower spikes and deep blue flowers make this plant striking either in containers or in the landscape.

Scaevola – The **‘Whirlwind’ series (EL, FM, P, WR)** (☼-●, 8-14” T, 10-12” W, D, H) from Proven Winners was compact with huge, showy blooms. **‘Whirlwind Blue’ (EL, S, WR)** and **‘Whirlwind White’ (EL, WR)** were both vigorous and floriferous.

Schizanthus ‘Treasure Trove’ series (P) (☼-●, 8-12” T, 6-10” W) from Proven Winners is a great early season or fall annual. Flowers similar to stock and with vibrant colors.

Torenia ‘Clown Rose Improved’ (EL, P, S, WR) (●, 6-8” T, H) from Pan American Seed has a bright, clear color and is a prolific bloomer.

Verbena (P) – **‘Temari Patio White’ (WR)** (☼, 12-18” T, 24-28” W) from Jackson & Perkins; the **‘Lanai’ (MV)** (☼, D, H) and **‘Rapunzel’** (☼, H) series from Fischer; and the **‘Aztec Pearl’** and **‘Aztec Violet’** (☼, 6” T, 8-12” W) from Ball FloraPlant all displayed uniform habit, compactness, profuse blooming, and showy colors. Plants were fast growing and resistant to powdery mildew. All thrived in our heat and full sun.

Vinca (P) - The **‘Pacifica’ series (EL, MC, MV, RG, WR)** (☼-●, 12-16” T) from Pan American Seed had large blooms and great colors. Great upright habit. **‘Sunstorm Bright Red Improved’ (EL, WR)** (☼, 14-16” T, 16-18” W) from Sygenta was a bright, clear red and really noted by visitors. **‘First Kiss Blueberry’ (MC)** (☼, 11” T, 16” W, H, D) AAS Winner had impressive color, large blooms and uniform in habit.

Zinnia (P) – **‘Magellan Coral’ (MC)** (☼, 15-17” T, 15-19” W) AAS Winner had great color and habit. **‘Zowie’ (S)** (☼, 24-29” T, 26-27” W) AAS Winner is a showstopper with its red and yellow bi-colored flowers.

2005 Top Herbs

African Foxglove (Ceratotheca triloba) (EM) will provide you with elegant blooms throughout the summer and fall. Some plants produce white blooms, while others have pink; both are quite beautiful. Although it is a drought-tolerant annual, it will grow taller (to 5-6’) if it is given steady watering. It has been used medicinally. (☼-●, 4-6’ T, 3’ W, H)

Black Hollyhock (Alcea rosea nigra) (EL, EM, MC, P, S, WR) is a striking old-fashioned plant covered with large blooms that are such a dark purple they

appear black. It can grow to an impressive height of 6-8', and will often bloom a second time if cut back after its first flowering in early summer. It has been used medicinally, as a culinary herb, and also as a source of dye and papermaking fiber. (☼, 5'-8" T, 1.5-2' W, 🌱, 🦋)

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) (EL, EM, FM, MC, MV, P, S, WR) is one herb that is perfect for those difficult moist or boggy sites. It can even grow in shallow water. Its crimson flowers are sure to delight you throughout its summer-long blooming season. It has been used medicinally. (☼-🌑, 2-4' T, 1-2' W, 🌱, 🦋)

Clary Sage (*Salvia sclarea* 'Vatican White') (EL, EM, FM, P) is a biennial herb that has attractive basal foliage in its first year of growth, with a beautiful flower spike that can reach up to 3' in height in its second year. The showy blooms and bracts attract butterflies. Parts of the plant are edible; it is also used medicinally and produces an essential oil that is used in perfumes and cosmetics. (☼, 30" T, 24" W)

Coral Bells (*Heuchera* 'Creme Brulee') (EL, EM, FM, P, S) is a wonderful foliage plant. Its unique blend of bronze and burgundy tones gives you some great opportunities for eye-catching plant combinations in your garden, and it is surprisingly heat and sun tolerant. *Heuchera* has been used medicinally and as a dye fixative. Proven Winners selection. (☼-🌑, 12" T, 18" W, H)

Lion's Ear (*Leonotis nepetifolia*) (EM) is definitely an attention-getting annual. It's a tall (4-6') and 'architectural' plant with unusual orange blooms. Bees and butterflies find it attractive as well. It has been used medicinally and can be dried for use in floral arrangements (although the seed pods can be sharp – handle with caution). (☼, 4-6' T, 1.5-3" W, 🦋)

Moon Flower Vine (*Ipomoea alba*) (EL, EM, FM, HR, MC, P, S, WR) is a vigorous vine that looks great on a trellis or fence. The large white blooms open at dusk and have a wonderful fragrance. It is an annual vine in our zone, but will often volunteer the next year. The young leaves and seeds are edible, and the entire plant has been used medicinally. (☼, 6-20' T, ▲)

Papalo (*Porophyllum ruderale*) (HR) is a culinary herb from Mexico that has only recently been introduced into the United States. Although its bloom is insignificant, it has unusual and ornamental foliage and a strong scent. It can grow to an impressive height of 6-7' and does require staking. Fresh leaves can be used much like cilantro in a number of dishes. (☼-🌑, 8-10" T)

Pineapple Sage 'Golden Delicious' (*Salvia elegans*) (EL, FM, MC, P, S) is a new cultivar of pineapple sage that is a standout thanks to its golden foliage. The bright red blooms really stand out against the contrasting foliage. The leaves of this variety retain the original's pleasant scent, and can be used either fresh or dried as a culinary flavoring. A real showstopper in our late summer garden! Proven Winners selection. (🌑, 36" T, 🌱)

Polish Amaranth (*Amaranthus cruentus*) (P, S) is spectacular in the garden. The burgundy foliage and stems are a perfect foil for the full red plume-like bloom. It readily re-seeds itself, but you won't mind. The seeds and leaves are edible, and the plant is also used as a dye source. (☼, 4-6' T)

Red Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*) (EL, HR, P) may take some time to get established, but once it does you're in for a treat. It can grow to 2-3' and can be encouraged to repeat bloom by deadheading once the cherry-red blooms are past their prime. Parts of the plant have been used medicinally, and the seeds were used in ancient embalming. (☼-🌑, 1.5-3' T, 1-2' W, 🦋)

Spanish Lavender, Rabbit Ears (*Lavandula stoechas pedunculata*) (EM, MC, P) is a tender perennial for us. Different than English Lavender, Spanish Lavender blooms early in the season and can bloom non-stop all summer even into fall. It loves a sunny location, where it grows to 2' in height, 3' counting the flower stems. Its whimsical Rabbit Ears name comes from the form of the blooms, which consist of barrel-shaped peduncles with two or more "rabbit ears" on top. A great species for lavender oil. (☼, 2' T&W, 🦋, ▲)

Sunset Hyssop (*Agastache rupestris*) (EL, EM, MC, P) is one plant that has it all. Its apricot blooms contrast beautifully with its fine gray-blue foliage, it has a wonderful fragrance (like root beer), and it attracts butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden. It can also be used to make an herbal tea. (☼-🌑, 1.5-2' T, 1-1.5' W, D, H, 🦋)

2005 Top Perennials

Achillea millefolium 'Fireland' (FM, OD, P, S) (☼, 18-30" T, D, 🌸, 🦋) - Tall, upright habit. Flowers open red, then fade to pink and then gold. Ball FloraPlant.

Ajuga reptans 'Caitlain's Giant' (EL, FM, MC, OD, P, S, WR) (☼-🌑, 6-9" T, 1-2' W, D) from Proven Winners has big, bold and lush burgundy foliage all season long; blue flowers in spring; tolerates deep shade and bad conditions. **'Burgundy Glow'** (S) (☼-🌑, 6-9" T, 6-12" W) from Ball FloraPlant has bright, variegated foliage of pink, burgundy, and white.

Alcea 'Queeny Purple' (MV, P) (☼, 2-3' T, 1-1.2' W, 🌸) - 2005 AAS Winner. Dwarf and compactness make this hollyhock a novel selection. Great for borders or in the foreground of the gardens.

Artemisia vulgaris 'Janlim' (P) (☼, 2-3' T, 1.5-2.5' W) from Riverbend Nursery has bright yellow and green variegated foliage. Grows upright to about 2' tall. Striking in combination with brightly-colored flowering plants.

Artemisia stelleriana 'Silver Brocade' (EL, P) (☼, 6' T, 18" W) from Greenleaf Perennials is a striking groundcover-type artemisia with silver-white foliage and deeply lobed foliage.

Boltonia asteroides 'Jim Crockett' (FM, MC, P, WR) (☼, 2' T, 🌸, 🦋) from Ball FloraPlant is a compact, short boltonia growing to just 2' tall. Flowers throughout most of the summer.

Callirhoe involucrate (MC, P) (☼, 6-12" T, 6-36" W, D) - Purple Poppy Mallow from Jelitto Seed. A vigorous groundcover with deeply lobed foliage which covers itself in bright pink, mallow-like blooms. Flowers all summer. Great for a dry, well-drained site.

Coreopsis 'Creme Brulee' (EL, FM, MC, MV, OD, P, S, WR) (☼, 1-1.5' T, 1-3' W, H, D, 🦋) - from Riverbend Nursery is a yellow-flowered coreopsis that is being promoted as an improved version of *C. verticillata* 'Moonbeam'. It has larger, deeper yellow flowers on a more vigorous plant having denser less open form. Grows in dense, bushy clumps to 12-20" tall eventually spreading to 24" wide. Butter-yellow flowers bloom profusely from June to October. Lacy deep green leaves.

Coreopsis rosea 'Sweet Dreams' (EL, EM, FM, P, S, WR) (☼, 1-1.5' T, 1-2' W, 🦋) - from Mary's Greenhouse is a thread-leaf coreopsis with pink and white bicolored flowers. Flowers all summer.

Dahlia (EM, P) 'Ellen Houston' (☼-🌑, 12-24" T, 🦋, 🌸), 'Classic Summertime' (☼-🌑, 2-4' T, 🦋, 🌸), and 'Bishop of Llandaff' (☼-🌑, 2-3' T, 🦋, 🌸) - 'Ellen Houston' has rich flowering, double orange/red flowers with incredible dark black leaves. Grows to 18"-24". **"Classic Summertime"** has a soft yellow flower that is a striking contrast to its dark, weathered bronzy leaves; large plant; 2'-4'. 'Bishop of Llandaff' grows tall to 36" and has striking single red flowers. All from Brent & Becky Bulbs.

Echinacea 'Orange Meadow Bright' (EL, EM, FM, OD, P, S, WR) (☼-🌑, 2-3' T, 1.5-2.5' W, D, H, 🦋, ▲) - from Riverbend Nursery has a striking orange color. Unique and showy in the gardens.

Echinacea 'Sparkler' (EL, FM, OD) (☼-🌑, 26" T, 18" W, 🦋, ▲) - from Terra Nova Nursery has green foliage that is speckled and splattered with white. Unique and novel.

Erysimum 'Pastel Patchwork' (FM) (☼-🌑, 24" T, ▲, 🌸) - from Ball FloraPlant has loads of soft, mauve flowers from early summer thru mid-summer. Grows to 24". Beautiful color.

Euphorbia 'Blue Lagoon' (EL, FM, P) (☼-🌑, 2' T) - from Riverbend Nursery. The foliage may be bluish-green, but the inflorescences of 'Blue Lagoon' offer a lime-green and yellow dazzle that lasts for months.

Gaura lindheimeri 'Ballerina Rose' (EL, FM, P) (☼, 3-4' T, 1-2' W, D, H) - from Ball FloraPlant is a compact selection growing to just 18" tall. Loads of pink-rose colored blooms from mid-summer on.

Leucanthemum x superbum 'Ice Star' (P, WR) (☼-🌑, 24-30' T, 24" W) - from Ball FloraPlant grows to 30" and is a strong, sturdy plants. Full flowers make a show in mid-summer.

Lychnis arkwrightii 'Vesuvius' (P, WR) (☼-🌑, 12-18" T, 2-3' W, 🌸) from Greenleaf Perennials is a particularly splendid variety. It has dark, bronzy-maroon foliage and bears very conspicuous and very large, molten lava-colored, orange-scarlet flowers. Grows to about 16" tall and flowers in mid-summer.

Lysimachia congestiflora 'Persian Chocolate' (EL, FM, P) (☼-🌑, 2" T, 3' W) - from Greenleaf Perennials is a semi-evergreen groundcover which makes a mass of small purple foliage. In late spring, the purple foliage is topped by hundreds of golden bells...a really amazing sight. We love the bronze foliage.

Origanum laevigatum 'Pilgrim' (MC, P) (☼, 24" T&W) - from Greenleaf Perennials makes a 2' wide clump of tiny glaucous green leaves which are topped in late June with 18" tall sprays of rich lavender-purple flowers held in a dark purple calyx. A great ornamental oregano.

Phlox paniculata 'Flamingo' (EL, FM, MC, P, S) (☼-🌑, 28" T, 2-3' W, 🌱, 🦋, ▲) - Greenleaf Perennials; 'Lilac' (FM) and 'Purple Flame' (FM, S) (☼-🌑, 1-1.5' T, 9-12" W, 🌱, 🦋, ▲) from Ball FloraPlant. All are compact, short, and sturdy plants which bloom from mid-summer on.

Salvia greggii 'Navajo Red' (FM, P, S) and 'Navajo Purple' (EL, FM) (☼-🌑, 30" T, 18" W, D, 🌱, 🦋, ▲) from Ball FloraPlant are bright colors and showy in the garden. Flower all season.

Salvia x sylvestris 'Snow Hill' (EL, FM, MC, P, S) (☼, 1.5-2' T, 1-1.5' W, D, 🦋, 🌸) - from Ball FloraPlant is compact and covers itself with loads of white flower spikes. Flowers from June thru September.

Salvia x mexicana 'Limelight' (P) (☼, 1' T, 🌸) - from Singing Spring Nursery puts on quite a show from August until frost with loads of chartreuse and bright blue flower spikes. A real showstopper in the garden.

2005 Top Tropicals

Alocasia 'California' (EL) (☼-🌑, 18-24" T) - Upright leaves and compact habit make this selection versatile in the garden. Great in containers or the tropical border. Grows 18"-24". Brent & Becky's Bulbs.

Alocasia 'Frydek' (S) (☼-🌑, 2' T) - Pronounced and bold white veins make this plant striking in the garden. Leaves are medium-sized and a dark, velvety green. Brent & Becky's Bulbs.

Alocasia plumbea 'Nigra' (EL, P) (🌑-🌑, 3-5' T&W) - Extremely large 12"-24" dark green leaves, almost black and somewhat metallic. Leaves are glossy with edges that are ruffled and indented; 3'-5'. Brent & Becky's Bulbs.

Bromeliad 'Fudge Ripple' (🌑-☼) - Deep bronze foliage with grey variegated banding makes this plant striking and a real conversation piece.

Colocasia 'Yellow Splash' (EL) (🌑-🌑, 8-14" T) - Taro, Elephant's Ear is a green and yellow variegated selection from Brent & Becky's Bulbs. Striking foliage and great for color combinations.

Canna 'Red Futurity' (EL, P, WR) (☼, 2-3' T) - Very dark red, self-cleaning flowers complimented by dark bronzy green, almost black leaves. Great in full sun. Grows to just 2-3'. Short and compact. Brent & Becky Bulbs.

Curcuma elata 'Giant Plume' (☼-🌑, 2-3' T, 🌸) - Pinecone Ginger - Large, bright pink spike blooms comes up separate from the broad, lush leaves and can be used as a cut flower; loves sun and is hardy to zone 7. Grows 2'-3'. Brent & Becky Bulbs.

Curcuma zedoaria (MC, P) (☼-🌑, 12-24" T) - Zedoaria Pinecone Ginger - Has striking leaves with red central veins; likes sun to medium shade; zone 8-10. Brent & Becky Bulbs.

Dinella tasmanica 'Variegata' (🌑, 4' T) - Variegated Flax Lily - Beautiful green and white sword-shaped leaves make this a striking foliage plant in any combination. Singing Springs Nursery.

Eucomis autumnalis (MC) (☼-🌑, 12-16" T, ▲) - Pineapple Lily. Soft creamy to yellow to greenish flowers in mid-summer. Grows 12"-16" tall. Brent & Becky's Bulbs.

Eucomis 'Sparkling Burgundy' (MC) (☼, 1-2' T, 1.5-2' W) - This Pineapple Lily emerges in spring bearing deep burgundy leaves that slowly pale to olive green. In mid-summer 2' tall, wine-red flower stems sport starry, outfacing blossoms of creamy-white tinged with burgundy-pink. Singing Spring Nursery

Gladiolus 'Flevo Junior' and 'Flevo Amico' (☼, 12-24" T, 🌸) are dwarf gladiolus. 'Flevo Junior' is hot pink and white and 'Flevo Amico' is a scarlet red. Both are incredibly showy and striking in the garden. Brent & Becky's Bulbs.

Musa acuminata (EL, MC, P) (🌑-🌑, 6-10' T) - Sumatrana, Zebrina (S, WR) or Rojo Banana (S) - Green leaves stained with burgundy wine markings on top and red beneath; does well in containers indoors and outdoors; 6'-10'. Brent & Becky's Bulbs.

Senna didymotropa (☼, 4-6' T, D) - Popcorn Bush - The foliage is what gives this plant its name. Grows 4-6' tall and bears foot-tall spires of large golden blossoms that spring from glossy brown buds. A dynamite look make popcorn bush a must *for tropical-looking gardens*. Singing Spring Nursery.

Scadoxus (🌑, 8-10" T) - Blood Lily - A mass of tiny florets with prominent stamens clustered in one large, orange-red, softball-sized, bottlebrush, round flower is so eye-catching, it wins a place in many summer gardens. This South African native is 8"-10" tall and provides bright color in the late summer garden. Bold, broad green leaves emerge after the flowering is over. Although it is said to need partial shade, we have this pest resistant, adaptable plant happily blooming in full sun. Brent & Becky's Bulbs.

Xanthosoma atrovirens 'Lime Zinger' (EL, S) (☼-🌑, 3-4' T) - Elephant Ear - 'Lime Zinger' has chartreuse green giant leaves which manage to appear bright and cool at the same time, especially when planted with darker colored plants. It's a terrific plant that will grow in water, in a boggy area or in a well watered garden. The leaves tend to stay green longer when planted in full shade. Singing Springs Nursery.

Be sure to visit the UT Gardens in Jackson and Knoxville in 2006. The American Conifer Society will have its National Conference in Knoxville in mid-June. Check out the UT Gardens website at <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu/> for more information.

Culture Information Keys:

- ☼ (Full Sun)
- 🌑 (Full Shade)
- 🌑 (Part Shade/Part Sun)

T (Tall = Height)
W (Wide = Spread)

D (Drought Tolerant)
H (Heat Tolerant)

- 🌱 (Attracts Hummingbirds)
- 🦋 (Attracts Butterflies)
- ▲ (Fragrant)
- 🌸 (Cut Flower)



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