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The Best New
Plants of 2013

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Amber Jubilee® ninebark was actually named in honor of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee and its glowing foliage of orange, yellow and gold.

2013 Best New Plants

By Maria Zampini

So many new plants to choose from, so little space on the page to write about them. How will I ever choose which ones to share? I've come to the conclusion that no matter what, I cannot possibly cover even a fraction of all the new plant introductions I'd like to tell you passionate plant people about. What to do? I'll let someone else help me! Let me share with you some new plants that were recently recognized as winners — voted on by green industry professionals — at the New Varieties Showcase at the Farwest Trade Show in Portland, Oregon.

Best of Show

"Best of Show" was First Editions® Amber Jubilee® ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Jefam'). Developed in Manitoba, Canada, this compact ninebark is extremely hardy to Zone 2. Amber Jubilee is a cross between 'Diablo' and 'Dart's Gold'. This genetic combination created a ninebark with a blend of gold and yellow foliage that takes on hues of red and purple in the fall. A smaller-sized plant, it will reach 5 to 6 feet in height and 4 feet in width. It can be used alone, or if planted in a group it can be used as a screen or the perfect landscape backdrop. Full sunshine and selective yearly pruning will keep this plant looking its best in your yard.



Outstanding Plants

Three plants were bestowed the honor of "Outstanding Plant." The first was Peach Sorbet™ blueberry from the BrazelBerries™ series (*Vaccinium corymbosum* Peach Sorbet™). Don't let its name fool you; this is a compact blueberry with leaves that are peach to pink to orange in color. In most climates it will hold its foliage year round, turning an eggplant purple in winter. You can plant Peach Sorbet™ as a foundation plant or utilize it in a container or as a hedge.

The same company who brings us Peach Sorbet™ has also introduced Raspberry Shortcake™ BrazelBerries™ raspberry (*Rubus idaeus* Raspberry Shortcake™). This thornless dwarf raspberry only grows 2 to 3 feet tall and wide so it is ideal for large patio containers, but can still be planted in the landscape or garden. Best of all it requires no pollinator, trellising or staking.

Other "Outstanding Plant" winners include two Zone 7 selections: 'Cathedral Gem' sausage vine (*Holboellia coriacea* 'Cathedral Gem') and 'Black Pantha' agapanthus (*Agapanthus praecox* ssp. *orientalis* 'Black Pantha').

Above and right: Bring berry production to your front porch with Peach Sorbet™ compact blueberry, which is perfect for container gardening.





People's Choice

The "People's Choice Award" went to Pistachio hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Horwack'). You won't find another hydrangea bloom that looks like this — individual scarlet red and green flowers with violet centers create a "psychedelic" looking bloom up to 5 inches across! This plant will be 2 to 3 feet tall and 5 to 6 feet wide at maturity.

Sunny Sedge

I wanted to include at least one ornamental grass-like plant; thus, I present 'Everillo' sedge (*Carex oshimensis* EverColor® 'Everillo'). Discovered in Ireland, this is a sport from *Carex* 'Evergold'. The leaves are a lime green that turn a solid gold so bright you've gotta wear shades! More compact than other species at only 20 inches tall, it will lighten up even the darkest corners of your yard.



Perennially Speaking

* Really, who doesn't love ice cream? No doubt you'll crave Double Scoop™ 'Cranberry' coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea* Double Scoop™ 'Cranberry') for your perennial bed. It is shorter than other double-flowering *Echinacea* cultivars growing to 24 to 26 inches high and 16 to 22 inches wide. The cherry-red flowers will stay brilliant all summer long with no fading.

Above: Pistachio hydrangea blooms are a psychedelic collage of red, green and violet hues. **Left:** Sometimes twice is nice — Double Scoop™ 'Cranberry' coneflower's cherry red flowers stay bright all growing season. **Right:** 'Everillo' Sedge.

Golden Candle™ (*Koeleruteria paniculata* 'Gocanzam')



Tree-rific

Slim and trim is in and Golden Candle™ goldenrain tree (*Koeleruteria paniculata* 'Gocanzam') easily squeezes into the tightest of spaces. An extremely upright and columnar selection, it grows only 4 feet wide and will reach up to 35 feet in height. Large, bright yellow flower panicles appear in early summer. It will tolerate drought, heat and urban conditions and makes an excellent street tree.

Hot Maple

'Orange Flame' Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum dissectum* 'Orange Flame') is, well, orange! This Japanese maple has an upright habit and will mature to 15 to 18 feet high and 10 to 12 feet wide. New growth emerges orange and will eventually turn green, but petioles and bark will remain orange. In summer the tree is green with what looks almost like orange candles (the new growth) on the tips. It will need at least part to full sun for best color.



'Wings of Fire' weigela is one "hot" plant with its red new growth.

Hot Shrub

If you're tired of the typical maroon- or green-leaved weigela then you'll find 'Wings of Fire' (*Weigela hybrida* 'Wings of Fire') a refreshing change. Its leaves have red new growth that darkens during the summer months then finishes out to a wine-red in the fall. Pink blooms appear in late spring. It finishes at around 3 to 5 feet in height and width so it is a good accent plant in the border or in large mixed containers. 🌸

Maria Zampini is the owner of UpShoot™ LLC, which markets and licenses new plant introductions including LCN Selections. She is a featured writer and columnist in consumer magazines and horticultural trade journals as well as a nationally known speaker on plant patents, trademarks and new plant introductions. Visit her website at upshoothort.com.

Grayed Jade (Pantone 14-6011) – A subtle, hushed green with gray:

Thuja occidentalis 'Bobazam' Mr. Bowling Ball® (shown right) gets a perfect score as a no-maintenance evergreen. It forms a perfect 2 ½ by 2 ½ foot round circle without any trimming. It has gray-green foliage that looks more like a *Chamaecyparis* spp. or a fine-needled juniper rather than an arborvitae. Its soft foliage takes heavy snow loads; branches won't break and it will bounce back to its original shape. It is hardy to Zone 3.



Similarly colored plants: *Ligularia dentata* 'Osiris Fantaisie' and *Astelia banksii* 'Shore'.

Sophisticated Emerald (Pantone 17-5641) – A lively, radiant green:

Hydrangea macrophylla 'Mystical Emerald' (shown right) flowers emerge pink with green eyes in spring. As the blooms mature they turn a soft green, which eventually intensifies to an emerald-green in summer. This Zone 5 to 8 hydrangea prefers full sun or partial shade and will reach 3 to 4 feet in height and width.



A similarly colored plant is *Heuchera* 'Carnival Limeade'.